



Joyful Watercolor's with Molly's Fine Art Academy, LLC

Beginner's Watercolor Supply List

These are my recommendations of basic supplies to get started in watercolor painting. You don't need to get the exact products that I recommend, use them as examples.

I put recommendations of places to purchase supplies at the bottom of the list or an Amazon link next to a specific recommendation.

General Supplies:

Water containers -Two plastic or paper cups will do

Kitchen Cellulose Sponge

Tissue box with no moisturizers added to tissues

Paper towels

Spray Bottle for water

Artist's tape or painters tape

A hard graphite pencil for your sketch

Kneaded eraser

Art board to tape your paper to; more info about art boards below



Watercolor Paper:

Watercolor paper comes in pads, blocks or sheets.

It's more economical to purchase sheets and cut them to the size you want.

However, for beginners I recommend purchasing pads.

You can use the paper from pads with or without an art board then you don't have to deal with cutting a sheet of paper. If you purchase a block it acts as your art board.

Whatever brand you get, make sure it's 100% watercolor.

Arches Cold-pressed Watercolor paper 140lb pad is versatile and affordable:
<https://amzn.to/4a1B3LU>

If you purchase a sheet of paper, you'll need an art board to tape it to.

Art boards for your paper:

- Joe's Art Boards it's only a 6x6" size

<https://www.cheapjoes.com/catalog/product/view/id/26931/s/joe-s-prime-extra-fine-art-boards/>

- This is good price of a 13x17" size on Amazon: <https://amzn.to/3V83XG2>

- You can also go to **Home Depot** and ask them to cut a piece of pine board to an 9x11 size (good for a piece of 8x10 paper) that works great too!

- **Gatorfoam Board** is like a foam board that can hold water. They are sold in large sizes meant to be cut down to the artists preferable size. These boards are good if you're going to use a lot of water on your paper. They are very light too.

Palettes:

There are so many choices when it comes to palettes! This palette was my first one and I still use it everyday. The price is right at \$6.99 <https://amzn.to/438r85g>.

If you purchase watercolors in a kit they come with an area (well) to blend your watercolors. So you'll probably be fine with a porcelain dish or a palette with big wells for your water. It's a personal choice and you can figure it out as you go.

Blick's has lots of palettes to choose from: <https://www.dickblick.com/>

👉 Please don't purchase the super cheap palettes at Michael's because the plastic will bead the water and the colors won't blend as well.

Brushes

Quality brushes are expensive however, they last for years.

I started with Silver Black Velvet set (they're not cheap) but they took a beating from me and kept their form: <https://amzn.to/4bZT2nZ>

This is a good beginner's set from Creative Mark: <https://amzn.to/3wAcY0k>

Whatever brushes you get, make sure to have a few of these round brush sizes Size 4, 6, 8, and 12. A small size 1 is useful for detail.

A square brush is good for landscape and larger paintings.

We'll chat more about brushes in class.

Scrubbers are great for highlights, mistakes and other techniques

These are the ones I use: <https://amzn.to/3P7A0SK>

Watercolor Paints We'll be going over colors a lot in class.

As with most paint brands, there are student grade paints and professional grade paints. The differences are the amount of pigment in the colors. Student grade paints are less expensive because of the lesser amount of pigment in them. Most of them are not lightfast so there's a chance of your artwork fading over time.

Professional quality paints have stronger pigments. You don't need as much paint for your marks, and they're lightfast so they won't fade over time.

For beginner's I recommend **Winsor & Newton's Cotman** watercolors. They are student grade watercolors but the pigments are as close as you'll get to professional grade, and they're affordable.

This kit has 12 colors; the primaries plus the earth colors that's all the colors you'll need to start: <https://amzn.to/49LkoNe>

If you want to purchase colors separately, make sure to get your primaries; red, yellow and blue. It's nice to have some of the earth colors as well such as; Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber and Raw Sienna.


Recommended professional grade brands are:

Winsor & Newton Professional Watercolors set of 12: <https://amzn.to/3IrjGZu>

Daniel Smith is an American company that uses honey for their binder. The pigments are strong and they have beautiful colors!

Daniel Smith's Introductory kit: <https://amzn.to/3IIMNNL>

A little homework!

 If you purchase a kit of watercolors that are in a pan and not a tube, I suggest you take the protective paper off before class. This process takes some time and you don't want to bother with it during your first class. **Save the paper coverings because they have the name of the colors on them.**

Purchasing Art Supplies

Dick Blick's has the best prices and fast shipping. Here is their website:

<https://www.dickblick.com>

There is a store in Wheaton and Schaumburg.


Jerry's Artarama: <https://www.jerrysartarama.com>

Cheap Joe's Art Supplies: <https://www.cheapjoes.com>

Good for Kilimanjaro Watercolor Paper it's affordable and great quality and it's only at Cheap Joe's.

Amazon is good too, just be careful which seller you purchase from.

The Amazon links that I posted are of sellers that I've vetted and used myself so I know the products are the real thing. They are affiliated links I make a few pennies from them which help with the cost of art supplies!

 I'm always updating my latest favorite art supplies on my website:

<https://mollysfineart.com/art-supply-list>

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to send me an email:

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Looking forward to seeing you in class!

Molly 