

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO START PAINTING AT HOME

(and nothing
you don't)



A stress-free checklist to start painting with confidence
(without wasting money or buying the wrong supplies)



Welcome Friend,

One of the most common questions I hear after a painting class is:
“What should I buy so I can keep painting at home?”

This checklist was created to make that simple. You do not need a full art studio. You do not need expensive supplies. You just need a few basics and the freedom to play.

This guide will help you:

- Save money by buying only what you need
- Avoid overwhelm with a simple starter list
- Build confidence with easy creative practice
- Start a joyful weekly painting habit

By the end of this guide, you’ll know exactly what to buy, what to skip, and how to begin painting today!

Creatively yours,

Professional Artist / Educator / Founder

Paint Sip Fun, subsidiary of Erin Leigh Studios



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Your Basic Paint Supply Checklist

These are the same supplies I recommend to my Paint Sip Fun students who want to keep painting at home.

- ☐ Acrylic paint set - student grade, like Liquitex Basics.
Colors (at the minimum): Black, White, Dark Brown, Violet, Blue, Green, Yellow, Orange, Red.
- ☐ 3 to 5 paint brushes
Small #1 round, Medium #4 round, Large #6 flat
- ☐ Canvas pad or canvas boards
Size 5x7 or 8x10
- ☐ Paper towels or old rag
- ☐ Cup of water to clean brushes
- ☐ Paper plate (to use as your palette for now)
- ☐ Pencil & eraser
- ☐ Apron or old shirt

Tip: Start simple. You can always add more later.

Optional Tools

(Nice to have, Not Required)

These are helpful extras if you want to expand later.

- ❑ Tabletop easel
- ❑ Spray bottle
- ❑ Palette knife
- ❑ Small sponge
- ❑ Storage box or bin for your materials
- ❑ Palette (or palette pad)
- ❑ Mixed Media Paper Sketch Book

Remember, these are optional, and you do not need these to begin.
You can create beautiful work with just the basics.



What NOT to buy at first ...

These items can slow your progress and make painting feel harder than it needs to be.



Avoid these when you are just starting out.

- Professional grade paints
- Large brush sets
- Giant canvases
- Oil paints
- Complicated paint kits



Why?

- They cost more and can create frustration.
- Simple tools create more joy and confidence.

Your first 4 creative play sessions

These four creative play sessions are designed to build confidence gently and joyfully.



Mixing Colors



Blending 2 Colors



Brush Strokes



Landscape

Your first 4 creative play sessions

1. Mixing 2 colors to create value

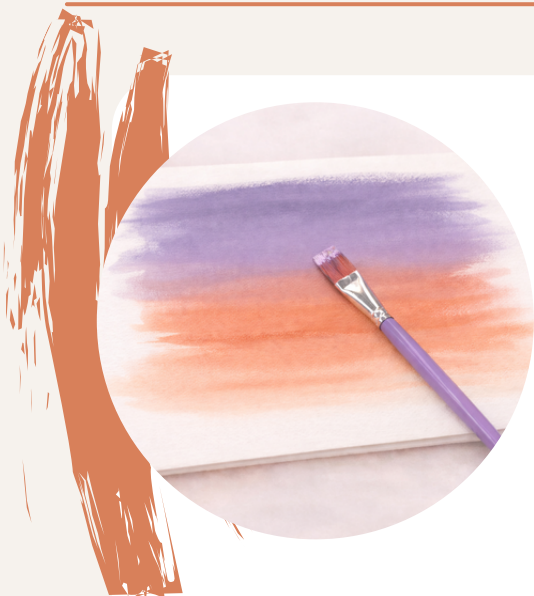


GOAL:

1. Make 5 small boxes on your paper as seen above.
2. Paint white on one end and black on the other
3. Mix an in between tone and paint it in the exact middle
4. Now mix that middle tone with white and add it to the second box
5. Finally mix the middle tone with a little bit of black and paint it in the fourth box

TIP: Does your value gradient look like an even transition from one box to the next? If not, try it again, and be mindful of the amount of white vs. the amount of black you need to mix the correct value. Let this be playful, not perfect.

Your first 4 creative play sessions



2. Color Blending

GOAL: Practice soft color blending with acrylic paint.

1. Place two colors side by side on your paper.
2. Rinse your brush and gently dry it on a paper towel.
3. With a clean, slightly damp brush, lightly sweep back and forth where the two colors meet.
4. Use soft strokes and very little pressure. Let the colors mix naturally.
5. If the paint feels thick or streaky, add a tiny touch of water and continue blending.

TIP: Blending works best when the paint is still wet. Slow down. Let your brush do the work. This is about feeling the paint move, not making it perfect.

Your first 4 creative play sessions



3. Exploring Brush Pressure & Line Size

GOAL: Discover how your brush changes with light and heavy pressure.

1. Dip your brush into paint and gently pull a line across your paper using very light pressure.
2. Try again, pressing a little harder each time to see how the line grows thicker.
3. Practice making the thinnest line possible and then the widest line possible with the same brush.
4. Repeat this exercise with all three of your brushes.

Notice how much control you have simply by changing how hard you press.

TIP: The magic is in the pressure. Soft touch = delicate lines.

Firm touch = bold strokes. Your goal is not perfection. Your goal is awareness.

Your first 4 creative play sessions



4. Landscape :

Bringing it all together

GOAL: Use everything you've practiced to create a simple landscape.

1. Begin by blending two colors in the sky using soft, gentle strokes.
Best if you use two similar colors, like orange and yellow or pink and pale orange
2. Create your mountains using lighter values and darker values of one color. Best if you use a cool color like violets, blues or greens.
3. Use brush pressure to shape each ridge, letting some lines be soft and others more defined.
4. Layer your mountains from light to dark, placing the darkest shapes in the front.

TIP: There is no right or wrong landscape. Let your hand move slowly and trust what you've learned. This is your moment to combine: Value, blending and brush control, and to simply enjoy the process.

Turn painting into a habit of joy.

- ☐ Choose one day each week
- ☐ Paint for at least 20 minutes
- ☐ Play music you love
- ☐ Silence your phone
- ☐ Drink something comforting
- ☐ Focus on the process, not perfection

Creativity is a form of self-care. Even 20 minutes a week can change how you feel about yourself creatively.

A Little Encouragement

You do not need talent.

You need time.

Your painting does not need to be perfect to be meaningful.

Every brushstroke builds confidence.

Every session builds skill.

Every painting is progress.

You are becoming an artist simply by practicing.



Let's Connect



Follow along for free painting tips, creative inspiration, and class announcements.

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Paint with me again.

If this guide brought you joy,
I'd love to create with you in
person.

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