

Recommended Basic Materials List

There are many providers of art materials that produce quality products for the watercolor artist. This information and list is offered as guidance, especially if you are diving into watercolor for the first time.

Paint : Simplicity in the palette should be a guiding principle, especially for beginning watercolorists. Basically your palette needs only one cool and one warm hue of the primaries, 3 secondary colors- at most, and one or two versatile neutrals. .This suggested list will help keep your palette as simple as possible and includes recommendations for both professional and student grade colors. Student grade colors are much less expensive than professional colors and will do just fine for learning and experimenting with watercolor.

<i>Color/ Temperature</i>	<i>Professional Grade Color Recommendation</i>	<i>Student Grade Color Recommendation</i>
Cool Yellow	<i>Holbein or Winsor-Newton Lemon Yellow, or American Journey Sour Lemon</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Lemon Yellow</i>
Warm Yellow	<i>Holbein or Winsor-Newton Cadmium Yellow Deep, or American Journey Cadmium Yellow Medium</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Cadmium Yellow Medium</i>
Cool Red	<i>Holbein Carmine or Winsor-Newton Permanent Alizarin Crimson</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Alizarin Crimson</i>
Warm Red	<i>Holbein or Winsor-Newton Cadmium Red Light, or American Journey Cadmium Red Medium</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Cadmium Red Light Hue</i>
Cool Blue	<i>Holbein or Winsor-Newton Cobalt Blue</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Cobalt Blue Hue</i>
Warm Blue	<i>Winsor-Newton French Ultramarine</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Ultramarine Blue</i>
Orange	<i>Holbein or Winsor-Newton or American Journey Cadmium Orange</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Cadmium Orange</i>
Green	<i>Holbein or Winsor-Newton or American Journey Viridian</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Emerald Green</i>
Violet	<i>Winsor-Newton Winsor Violet or American Journey Royal Amethyst</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Thio Violet or Violet</i>
Neutrals	<i>Holbein or Winsor-Newton or American Journey Burnt Sienna and Raw Sienna</i>	<i>Grumbacher Academy Burnt Sienna and Raw Sienna</i>



Paper: If you are buying paper for the first time, I recommend sticking with **140lb Cold Press surface** in either *D'Arches* or *Cheap Joe's Kilimanjaro* brands. It is most cost effective to buy paper in full sheet (22" x 30") sizes and cut or tear them down to workable sizes. Watercolor blocks are very popular, convenient, and easy to transport, especially for outdoor painting. They come in a variety of sizes also. Inch for inch, however, they are also the most expensive way to buy watercolor paper.

Brushes: Most watercolorists have a quire full of brushes – and most of them are usually too small for good watercolor work. Five quality synthetic or synthetic/natural blend brushes are really all that are needed to do the trick. There are many quality brushes by many different manufacturers. I am particularly fond of the Loew-Cornell Ultra Round. It is a cost-effective synthetic round brush that can produce both broad washes and fine lines. It is easily identified in racks by its polished black handle with a broad red stripe at the ferrule. Whatever brand you chose these are the types and sizes that are needed.

Rounds : # 8, 12 and 20

Flats : 1" and 2"

Palette : Any large – at least 10" x 12"- sturdy, deep welled, white plastic palette with a cover will do. Again, there are many manufacturers that produce good plastic watercolor palettes. The John Pike palette is a great choice, as it is made of extra sturdy plastic, has large wells for paint and a large, open mixing area.

Support Boards: When working on single sheets, some sort of stiff support is required. A product known as "Gatorboard" is a popular option. It is a sturdy but lightweight board made of non-water absorbing material. Paper can be mounted and stretched with tape or simply clipped to the board with bulldog clips. Gator board can be purchased in several standard sizes which correspond to the sizes of quarter, half and full sheet watercolor paper. Tempered masonite, plywood or luan sealed with varnish also work well, although are somewhat heavier than Gatorboard.

Related Materials: A handful of 2B drawing pencils along with a larger size sketch book – 9x12, 11x14 – will do for any drawing and sketching. You may also want a small watercolor sketchbook, no larger than 9 x 12, for quick color sketches and color studies. Other items that you might need are, sponges, tissues, paper towels, and a pencil sharpening tool. Containers for water are also essential. It is recommended that you have and use two water containers – one to hold clean water and one to use for rinsing brushes.