

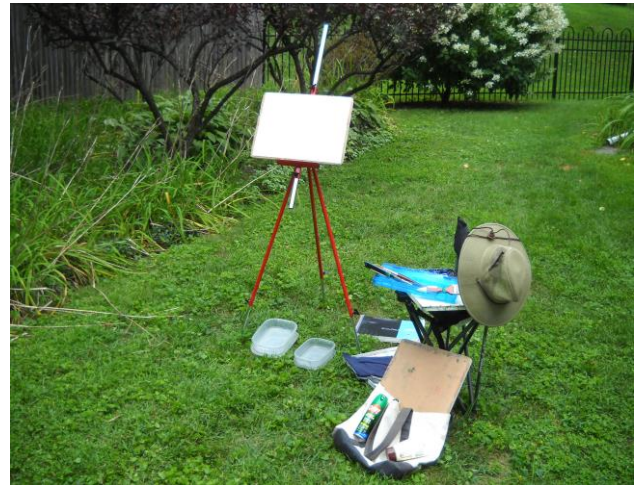
Plein Air Painting in Watercolor Equipment & Supplies



Packed plein air watercolor painting gear

In addition to the equipment needed to sketch and paint, there are important items that should be included for comfort as well. A hat, sunscreen, insect repellent are almost always required for painting outdoors. If you like to paint sitting down, a lightweight campstool or camp chair is a good idea. An easel is a good idea if you prefer to sit while painting. If you stand to paint, it is an absolute must. There are a number of different easels available for the watercolorist. There are light weight metal and wood easels which will hold mounted paper or a watercolor block in a horizontal position. French easels are popular with many artists. They are more substantial and include built in storage as well as areas to place palette, brushes and other materials while painting. Both types of easels are adjustable in height and can be used while seated or standing. No matter what equipment is chosen for your outdoor painting, the number one rule is that it should be as light as possible, easily packed and transported.

When equipping and packing for Plein Air painting, portability is the key. Besides being able to easily carry your equipment from car to the painting site, it also should be easy to quickly pack and dash back in the event of bad weather. The tote bag shown at left, holds everything needed to sketch and paint on location productively and in comfort.



Gear unpacked and ready for painting

The tote includes

- palette - which also holds several "studio rags" (old t-shirts cut into rectangles)
- two plastic water containers
- two sketchbooks, one for pencil sketches and watercolor sketches
- long plastic container for holding brushes, pencils, a sharpener and erasers
- quarter sheet size mounting board
- bulldog clips
- packet of quarter-sheet (11x15) size watercolor paper

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Plein Air Painting in watercolor - Required Supplies

Palette – sturdy plastic palette, paint wells filled, “studio rags”.

Brushes – only a few basic brushes are needed; one large (#28) and one medium (#14) round, a 1 ½” flat wash brush and a 1” flat brush.

Water containers – flat plastic containers designed for food storage work well and are relatively less bulky than other choices.

Paper – watercolor blocks are popular but relatively expensive. Full sheets (22 x 30) divided into individual quarter-sheet (11 x 15) size stretched and mounted or ready to be clipped to a mounting board is the most cost effective way to use paper.

Masonite or Gatorboard – for mounting or clipping paper for easy painting and carrying.

Bulldog clips – to clip unstretched paper to board

Sketchbooks – one for pencil sketches, one for watercolor sketches

Pencils – any brand 2B

Eraser – white plastic or gray “kneaded” eraser



Suggested Supplies for Comfort

Hat – coverage from the sun

Sunscreen

Insect repellent

Drinking Water

Layered clothing

Camp Stool - or other comfortable seating alternative

Optional equipment

Easel

Umbrella – for protection from sun or rain