

# Supply List for Beginning Watercolor

For this class I highly recommend good quality materials. For many mediums you can still have “success” with lower quality materials but sadly with Watercolor this is not the case. Of course – everyone has a budget and that is a varying range. Please don’t let the supplies be the reason you don’t take this class. I have developed a short list of things I feel like are important for you to have. If you have the budget and want to spend to “get all the things” I recommend focusing on quality not quantity. Good paper and good high-quality paint are a priority and will yield less frustration and more happiness with the painting process. Buy less and better quality.

## Paper

For this class you will need two qualities of paper and a sketch pad

One large sheet of higher quality paper. Please don’t be intimidated by the language of watercolor if this is all new. You will need 1 large sheet of cold press, 140 pound, Arches watercolor paper OR a block or pad of Arches (brand name) Cold Press paper 8x10 or larger. Cold Press – refers to the finish of the paper and how it’s made. 140 pound is the weight of the paper. And Arches is the brand of the paper- Arches makes all kinds of papers so please make sure it is the Watercolor paper. Another brand that will work for you is Fabriano Artistic line. Art stores will be the best source for this Guiry’s and Meininger’s are both good choices.

A pad of lower quality watercolor paper (also 140-pound weight) 8x10 or bigger. Brands that are good are Canson, Fluid, or Strathmore. If you have questions, please contact me.

A cheap sketch book any size. for taking notes, drawing out ideas and sketching. I’ve found these cheap at the big box stores. Blank paper that is unlined is all is needed for this.

## Basic Tools

A soft kneaded eraser (most craft stores have these)

A drawing pencil (2B is great) if you don’t have this bring a regular wood #2 school pencil

A pencil sharpener if you have one

A pen to take notes with

A board to tape your painting to- This can be a large piece of cardboard- smooth. It can be a smooth cutting board made of plastic, or a piece of chipboard. It needs to be bigger than your papers. (if you buy a pad of paper that is 16x20, the board will need to be just a bit bigger than that. maybe 18x22.

Painters Tape – the blue kind. Any width.

A roll of paper towels

A spray bottle (small is fine) full of plain water

A container for paint water- something you won't want to use again for food. This can be an old tub from margarine, yogurt, sour cream, or even an old jar.

## Paint

A small beginners set of high-quality watercolor tube paints. Good quality brands include but are not limited to: Golden Brand QoR Watercolor, Daniel Smith, Holbein, M. Graham and even Da Vinci Brand are all good quality paints.

If it's easier you can buy a few colors from one of the above brands. Trust me on this, less tubes is better—if they are higher quality.

For a small make your own basic set buy:

cadmium yellow

cadmium red

Cerulean blue

Prussian blue

Believe it or not those colors will get you almost everything you might need.

If I were to add to the set I would add – A Burnt Sienna, a Raw Sienna and a darker violet color, and maybe a green.

\*\*\*You do not need grey, black or white paint. If your set comes with them, that's fine, but you won't need them.

\*\*Please don't use or buy student grade paints. Dried pan paints, brands like Windsor and Newton Cotman Line, (their artist quality paints are good but Cotman is terrible in my opinion) Artist's Loft, Big box Store Brands. (Trust me, they don't mix well, they can be cloudy, they aren't highly pigmented enough to work, you will be frustrated)

## Palette

You will need a palette to use with your tube paints. I like a cover on mine- since you are going to and from class. Look for one in the same area where you buy the paint. It should be big enough to put your paints into so each color of paint has a well. Larger wells for paint are easier to use rather than smaller wells. Buy what you can afford. In a pinch a big open tray or old cookie sheet can even work.

# Brushes

You will need a small variety of sizes and shapes of brushes. You may already have some brushes and that is probably fine. For watercolor we need brushes that hold a decent amount of water in them and brushes that are soft, not stiff. Oil painting and some of the acrylic brushes will be too stiff and not as absorbent as what we want. Look for brushes that are specifically for watercolor.

Brands I like include but are not limited to –

Simply Simmons, Royal Brush Zen (These are available at Michaels) , Princeton Brand.

## You will need:

- A mid-size round brush (maybe a 7 or 8)
- A small round for putting in final details (like a 2 or a 0)
- A 1 ½ or 2-inch-wide flat brush
- A large flat brush (like 2-3 inches wide) \* this can be cheaper it just needs to be soft and absorbent

## If finances allow and you want them you could also get:

- A smaller flat brush (sometimes they call these “bright” brushes) about ½ inch wide
- A rigger brush (these are very fine, small, and have long bristles coming to a point)
- A smaller round brush (like a 4 or 5)

Remember – quality over quantity here too. A lot can be done with just one or two good brushes.

You will also need something to put it all into. Ideas include a tool box, a carry-on suitcase or a even just a nice big tote bag or a plastic crate. I suggest using a rubber band to hold your brushes together or some like a brush holder but brushes tend to fall out of open containers in the car.