

BEGINNING WATERCOLOR SUPPLY LIST

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You have some choices to make when selecting your supplies. The barest minimum would be a box of compressed paints that come with a brush (the kind children use) and some sturdy white paper. However, you will learn more and have better results with better supplies, and most of the supplies you buy now will last for years. Please note that if you already have watercolor supplies, you can use them and get additional supplies as you need them.

Basic supplies for beginning watercolor are:

PAINTS: Small (or large) tubes of the following colors: cadmium red, cadmium yellow, ultramarine blue, cerulean blue, quinacridone red, quinacridone gold, and sap green. Optional: neutral tint, burnt sienna, burnt umber, and any other colors that you particularly like. Good brands are Winsor Newton, M. Graham, Daniel Smith, Maimeri Blu, and Schminke. Academy, Cotman and Van Gogh are lower quality, “student grade” paints. Do not buy Art Advantage brand paints.

PAPER: I recommend 140-pound, cold-press watercolor paper. Watercolor paper comes in sheets, pads and blocks. My preference is a 10” x 14” or 12” x 16” block of Arches 140# cold-press paper, or three 22” x 30” sheets of Arches 140# cold press paper. Good watercolor paper will help you achieve good results with your painting.

BRUSHES: The most basic brush is a #10 or #12 round brush, but it’s great to have more if you want to spend the money. A good set of brushes would include #12, #8 and #4 round brushes and a 1” flat brush. Another good and economical option is one of the brush sets sold by most art supply stores. Be sure the brushes you buy are watercolor brushes.

PALETTE: A white tray with recessed areas for mixing colors. Covered palettes are best.

WATER CONTAINER: A clean pint sour cream container or something similar.

PENCIL: Any #2 or other drawing pencil.

ERASER: Kneaded eraser, larger size.

TAPE: One roll of drafting, artists’ or masking tape (¾” or 1” wide).

SKETCHING PAPER: Several sheets of any lightweight, white paper.

PAPER TOWELS: Bring several to each class.

Here are some local art supply stores (most give a student discount):

Muse Art & Design (the only local source for Daniel Smith watercolors, as far as I know)
4224 SE Hawthorne
503.231.8704

Utrecht Art Supplies
1122 NW Everett
503.417.8024

Columbia Art & Drafting Supply
1515 East Burnside
503.232.2216

Art Media
902 SW Yamhill
503.223.3724

Online sources:
www.danielsmith.com
www.dickblick.com
www.cheapjoes.com