

Watercolor Materials



Megha Mehra

Results vary with the quality of materials. Invest in good quality materials. Here is my Getting Started with Watercolor Materials guide.

Drawing

- Drawing pencil (2B or your preference)
- Kneaded eraser

Paints

Buy only artist/professional quality paints (Winsor Newton, DaVinci, Daniel Smith, Grumbacher Finest, Holbein). Avoid student grade paints. You can start with just few paints and add more later – at minimum, you want at least one of each color below.

- Ultramarine Blue
- Cobalt Blue
- Quinacridone Gold
- New Gamboge
- Winsor Yellow
- Raw Sienna
- Permanent Alizarin Crimson
- Winsor Red
- Quinacridone Rose
- Burnt Sienna
- Sap Green/Hooker's Green

Feel free to buy pan sets if you like. I prefer tubes over pans. If you are looking for a good set of tubes then these are good:

<https://www.amazon.com/Mijello-Mission-Gold-Water-Colors/dp/BoogW6BMFA>

Brushes

I like brushes that can hold lots of water yet can still maintain a fine tip. At minimum, get one brush of each type below.

- Round #6, #8 or #12 (Raphael, Silver black velvet 3000s are all good)
- Flat ½ or 1 inch (Raphael, Silver black velvet)

- #0, #1 Rigger for details

Budget friendly brushes

I recently tried these and they have been good so far. I can't guarantee their longevity:

- Creative Inspirations Dura-Handle™ Brushes Short Handle Mixed Set of 4 <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/creative-inspirations-dura-handle-brush-sets>
- Mandalay Goat Hair Hake Brush 2" <https://www.jerrysartarama.com/mandalay-professional-goat-hair-hake-brushes>

Palette

Cheap Joes palettes are great as they have a large area to mix paint. You can also use palettes from the local store or Amazon has some mixing area.

Paper

Use only good quality paper like Arches or Fabriano Artistic. I use 100% cotton rag paper like Arches (140 pound cold-pressed or rough). You can buy them as full sheets (22x30) and tear them into small sizes. Alternately you can buy blocks that are convenient such as 9"x12" or 12"x16" blocks etc.

If you can't find this, use this student-grade paper: <https://www.amazon.com/Canson-Watercolor-Textured-Charcoal-100510941/dp/B004M59O4C>

Boards to support the paper

Pick any one of them.

- Plexi Glass
- Gatorboard (my fav)

Miscellaneous

- Paper towels
- Masking tape
- Water containers
- Masking fluid (<https://www.jerrysartarama.com/turner-artists-water-colour-masking-fluid>)

Where to buy

My favorites are Jerrys and Dickblick. They always have huge discounts and great shipping.

www.jerrysartarama.com

www.dickblick.com

www.cheapjoes.com

www.amazon.com