

WATERCOLOR CLASS MATERIALS LIST

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*Cost effective alternatives underlined.

1. **Palette** - Chinese flower shaped porcelain or plastic palettes to hold the paint and the butcher tray for mixing. **Alternative:** any white plate or plastic shallow dish.
2. **Brushes** – Buy decent brushes (cheap ones lose hairs and you will endlessly be picking them out of your painting). Recommend buying three brushes- one #4 round, one #12 round, one 1” flat. You can make many different marks with just one brush. So, if you want to buy just one brush, buy the #12 Round* My preferred brush brand is Princeton Snap.
3. **Paint Colors** – pan or small tube – Core Colors: Ultramarine Blue, Cadmium Yellow Medium, and Cadmium Red Medium.
Additional Colors (optional) Alizarin Crimson, Cadmium Yellow Light, Prussian Blue, Ultramarine Veridian Green, Hooker’s Green, Burnt Sienna, Burnt Umber and Payne’s Grey. My two favorite brands are Winsor & Newton and Daniel Smith.
Alternative: Buy a small good quality travel set. This will do what you need it to do. These can run the gamut pricewise. I can recommend the Van Gogh Watercolor Pocket Box...it is relatively affordable, compact, has a variety of colors with good color saturation*
4. **Paper** – Paper comes in a variety of weights and textures. I am a fan of the heavier paper because it takes a lot of abuse. I would recommend getting nothing less than 140 LB paper (this should be noted on the package) although my preferred weight is 300 LB. I prefer cold press because I like the effect of the texture of the paper. However, if you are someone who is more inclined to detailed work, you may prefer a smooth surface (this is called hot press). If you don’t want to stretch your paper (see **Board** below), I would recommend buying a pad of paper called a watercolor block. I prefer to use the watercolor block because it saves on preparation time.
5. **Board** – this is for stretching paper or just to provide a flat surface. If your paper is lighter than 300 lb, you will have to stretch it (unless it is a watercolor block.) The board can be foam board, wood, MDF or masonite panels. **Alternative:** Pick up a piece of Masonite at Home Depot or Lowes, they will cut it down to a manageable carry size. Again, if you don’t want to stretch your paper, I would recommend buying a pad of paper called a watercolor block (see **Paper** above).
6. **Bag or Box** -whatever you have that works...reusable grocery bags are great or if you have more stuff, one of those big blue IKEA bags are fabulous and affordable.

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7. **Sketchbook** – Alternative: This can be anything from sticky notes to printer paper or sketchbook. The important thing is that you draw every single day and train your eye to look.
8. **Pencil** – whatever you have will work.*
9. **Paper towels**, tissues or Towel*
10. **Painters Tape** - Ace Hardware has a great low tack painters tape for Walls and Wood Floors that removes from the paper quite nicely. *Avoid the Scotch Blue Painters tape as it has a tendency to sometimes bond to the paper a bit too strongly which can result in tearing your paper when you go to remove it.*