

# BEGINNER WATERCOLOR SUPPLIES

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You want to consider texture and weight when it comes to paper.

There are three types of textures: hot-pressed, cold-pressed, and rough. Of these three, cold-pressed is the most commonly used. It has a noticeable texture that varies between manufacturers. For a beginner, the [Canson](#) brand is of good quality and affordable. The [Arches](#) brand is of high quality. I use this for my clients and framed works.

Paper weight is listed as lbs or grams per square metre (gsm). The higher the number, the heavier the paper. For watercoloring, the most commonly used weight is 140lb (300gsm). Some beginners will use mix media paper (90lb) as it is more affordable, and can withstand light watercolor use. However, if you want to become more serious with your watercoloring, use 140lb paper so that you can better understand how watercolors behave.

Watercolor paints can be used in pans or come from tubes. For a beginner, I would recommend the [12-color pan set from Winsor & Newton](#).

If you start developing an affinity for certain colors or would like to create your own palette, then tube paints is what you want to buy. Tube paints can range from \$3-\$12 depending on the brand, color, and size. I would recommend this route for someone who wants to take their watercolor journey to the next level.

I use primarily the Winsor & Newton and [LUKAS](#) brands of watercolors.



Brushes are made either from real animal hair (sable, squirrel, goat, etc.) or are synthetic. As a beginner, I would recommend purchasing synthetic as they are cheaper. However, I would not buy a large set of a variety of brushes just so that you have as many brushes as possible. With watercolor, sometimes less is more.

Of all the different shapes of brushes, I'd recommend purchasing round brushes as they are the most versatile. You can achieve broad strokes as well as fine details. The round brush [sizes 2 and 6 or 8](#) are great starter brushes.

Each brush is also designated with a number that indicates the size (note that size will vary slightly between manufacturers). I own brushes from [Grumbacher](#), [Winsor & Newton](#), and [Princeton](#).

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