

# **WATERCOLOUR SUPPLIES GUIDE**

+ HOW TO GET STARTED PAINTING!



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# Welcome

Hands up if you've tried watercolour painting on photocopy paper, and the whole thing just turned into a sopping wet mess \*raises hand\*. Well, I'm here to help!

This guide is a great list of things to keep in mind when you go shopping for your painting gear.

But let's get one thing straight - you do NOT need to spend a fortune! You just need to know what you're looking for (don't stress, read this and you're sorted) and you can buy a handful of affordable supplies - two of them you'll already have at home - and you're good to go.

If you're after extra support, I have FREE weekly tutorials on YouTube as well!

WATCH HERE

I acknowledge and pay respect to the lutruwita (Tasmania) community as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of this land on which I live, work create and paint.



# P A P E R

When I got started with watercolours many years ago I tried them out on photocopy paper and it was VERY bad, the whole thing went see-through and wet and floppy in seconds, the paint looked terrible and it just fell apart, literally.

Next I tried painting on thick card - again, a disaster.

Why? Because regular paper/normal thick card/canvas paper etc. cannot handle having heaps of water on them, they buckle, fall apart, or sometimes the water/paint just run straight off!

So, what do I recommend? Buy some proper watercolour paper! It doesn't have to cost the earth, but some key things to look for:

Buy WATERCOLOUR paper, nothing else

Paper weight - I buy 300GSM (this means it's really thick and can handle more water)

Quality - I am not saying you need to spend big bucks, but if you're looking at that Kmart watercolour paper that is kind of a grey-ish colour, don't do it! It is technically watercolour paper but I have found that once you add a bit of water/paint, the paper turns into a blobby ball. Look for brands like: Reeves or Mont Marte, these are affordable but still very user friendly.





# PAPER TIPS

**Tip 1:** You could even try a watercolour notebook - the paper weight is slightly less than what I suggested above, BUT, all your sheets of paper are in one spot, not sheets of paper scattered throughout the house! P

lus, you can flip through it in years to come and see how your artwork has progressed. I have several and love them all! They cost a bit more but they have zillions of pages, so it's actually really good value for money.

**Tip 2:** Do you have a guillotine/paper cutter? If so, you could try buying A3 pads of watercolour paper and trimming them down! This is a cost effective option.

**Another great resource:** your local art shop! Go in and ask for their advice, tell them your budget too and they can help you find something that is great quality within your price range.



# BRUSHES

Just like with the watercolour paper, watercolour brushes are important - for basically the same reason, other types of brushes can't handle all that water! Again, don't experiment with other types of brushes (although as I will discuss below, you CAN experiment with other materials to use alongside your brushes, like sponges! But I digress...).

Within the watercolour brush family, you'll find there are brushes made with animal hair and also synthetic brushes - for now, while you're getting started, don't worry too much about this - just go with what you can afford, and what is good quality within your budget!

You don't need heaps of brushes either, depending on how big you're gonna be painting, you probably just need a size 2, a size 6 and maybe a size 12 - you can do a LOT with just a couple of brushes!







# PAINTS

Now that you have your brushes and your paper sorted, let's talk about PAINT (which let's be honest, is probably the main reason you're here).

You have a few options with watercolour, and it can be overwhelming to begin with!

## Watercolour discs

Within each of these options there's different brands and qualities - basically the main difference I see - and that I did not understand when starting out - is that the watercolour discs are already set-up and in the discs, ready to go. You just have to add water and they're activated and you can start painting!

## Watercolour tubes

With tubes, the paint is already wet in the tube, but highly concentrated ! The thing I didn't realise when beginning was that you can actually squeeze the tubes into a palette, let them dry, and then it's basically the same as using the discs!

# J A R S

Watercolours need WATER! What for? For a few things, mainly: activating your paints, diluting your paints, and washing your brushes. I just use old jam jars .

I use TWO jars of water when I paint, one for warm colours (yellow, red and orange) and one for cool colours (blue, green and purple).

Of course, we all forget and get muddled up - that's totally ok! Just try and get into the habit of washing your brush in the corresponding jar each time.

**Hot tip:** keep your cup of tea AWAY from your water jars, I can guarantee you will get them mixed up and either sip your paint water, or dip your brush in your cuppa!!!

# P A P E R T O W E L / C L O T H

You need this for blotting paint and dabbing excess water off your brush. Paper towel is awesome for this because it's white so you can test your colours here instead of on your paper (always test colours before putting them on your paper! They can look different in the tray to how they look on paper).

But, for the environments' sake, try using an old white face washer instead or reusable bamboo cloth for the same effect.



## GETTING SET-UP

Make sure you have plenty of space to spread out, and, make sure you've got all your supplies handy.

To recap, you'll need:

- Two jars, one for warm colours and one for cool colours
- Watercolour brushes
- Paper towel or reusable cloth
- Watercolour paper
- Watercolour paints
- Palette (or a porcelain plate!) for colour mixing

## TIPS

Don't leave your brushes in the water, store them laying down or when you're finished painting and they're dry, stand them up in a jar.

Don't drink the paint water and don't dip your brush in the cup of tea.

Watercolour can stain clothing and furniture so be careful!!!





# ACTIVATE YOUR PAINT

Alright, so you're set-up with your supplies, a cup of tea and plenty of space - now what?!

You need to activate your paint! That just means, adding water to your paint, so you can actually use it. To do this, dip your brush into your water, swirl it around to wet the bristles, then take it across and rub the wet bristles into your chosen paint colour. Ta-dah! You're good to go!

If you're using tubes of paint, they will of course be wet when you've just squirted them from the tube - you can allow them to dry in your palette, and when you want to use them again, just activate them in the same way.

Ready to start ACTUALLY painting? I have a whole (FREE!) 'Watercolour for Beginners' playlist on YouTube, check it out below.

WATCH NOW!



## HI THERE! I'M TESS (SHE/HER) AKA RUBY TUESDAY ART.

If you're interested in learning watercolour painting, relaxing and taking time out for yourself, then you're in the right place!

My watercolour workshops, online courses and art kits are all designed to make watercolour easy and relaxing - even if you reckon you 'aren't creative' or you 'can't draw'!

Check out my FREE weekly watercolour tutorials on YouTube, click below or search for 'Ruby Tuesday Art' in YouTube.

WATCH HERE