

Supply List for Watercolor Sketching 2026

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Many of these materials are available at Dick Blick, whatever you currently use is fine—I provide this list so you can see what I am using.

Paper and/or Sketchbooks

Arches 140 lb. cold press watercolor paper cut to preferred size—you can have it spiral bound at FedEx

Hahnemuhle Watercolor Books (don't buy the Akademie Aquarelle as they are not 100% rag and they are harder to work on) 8.3 X 11.7 portrait, 11.7 X 8.3 panoramic and 5.8 X 8.3 portrait. The panoramic size is really fun for plein air. The smaller portrait size is small enough to put in your purse and take everywhere with you.

Stillman & Birn sketchbooks. The paper is not 100%rag. I like the smooth Zeta series for pen and wash.

Pens and Pencils

Twist-Erase 0.7 lead pencils with erasers, very handy

Otherwise an HB with a Mars plastic white eraser

Brush pens for quick sketching and enhancing watercolors

Faber Castell Pitt pens permanent and non-watersoluble as well as water-soluble

Try the set of Harvest Colors for fall hues, or check Blick for other sets

Shades of Grey gives you a nice set for monochrome and value studies

Tombow brush pens are also nice, but are water-soluble

Fine Point Permanent Pens for writing and line work. Try any of the following:

Winsor and Newton Fine Point pens 0.1, 0.3, 0.5 available in gray, sepia and black are excellent for enhancing your illustrations with pen. I like the 0.1 and 0.3 best

Pigma Micron, same sizes as above

Microperm 01 fine line

Unipin .0.1 fine line

Brushes

#2, #4, #6 Da Vinci Maestro series 35, plus a ½" and a ¾" flat brush

Watercolors

For plein air load tube paints into a portable palette that has enough room for 18 colors

Whatever watercolors you use are fine, but take a look at this list of warm and cool primaries as well as some extra colors:

Paints: Warm/Cool primaries: I use Daniel Smith watercolors

Reds: Cool: permanent alizarin crimson

Warm: pyrrol scarlet

Blues: Cool: phthalo blue (green shade)

Warm: phthalo blue (red shade) or French ultramarine blue or ultramarine blue

Yellows: Cool: hansa yellow light

Warm: hansa yellow medium

Additional colors: Violet: carbazole violet

Browns and golds: quinacridone burnt orange, yellow ochre or raw sienna (you can substitute burnt umber or burnt sienna for the quinacridone burnt orange).

Other colors you may want to add, in order of their usefulness: cobalt blue, hansa yellow deep or new gamboge, perylene green, pyrrol orange, indanthrone blue, Winsor and Newton permanent white gouache

Masking fluid