



Water+Color

Watercolor paint feels like water. Add some paint to clear water to change acrylics into watercolors. You have to work carefully to get enough color into the water without it becoming syrupy or thick. Mix out all lumps completely.

Plenty

Make more paint than you need. It's only water. Running out of paint makes streaks. You'll also need 2 tubs of water.

Test Paper

Because the paint looks different when you apply it to paper. Usually it is lighter than you think it will be.

Don't Run Out

There needs to be more paint than just enough. That means you'll need to replenish the watercolor on your brush **Before** the paint is running out. If you start to run out of paint, then you've gone way too far.

Good Brush

Use a medium to large brush with a good pointy tip. It holds a lot of watercolor and can still get into the small areas if you point the tip towards them.

No White

If you want white, leave the paper untouched. Lighter colors are made by adding water, not white.

Sunset Method

You can add a layer over a dried area to make it darker. You can never, ever make anything lighter. Only darker. Work from light to dark, in a Sunset Method.



The Brush Doesn't Touch the Paper!

If you feel the brush on the paper, then either you 1) don't have enough paint, or 2) your paint is too thick.

Leave it Alone

Do not go back and touch any paint that is already on the paper. NOTE: the reason for this, is that watercolor paint needs to sit up on top of the paper, and slowly soak in to look like watercolor. That's why the coating is on the paper, and if you touch it or play around at all, it disturbs that process.

Wet Watercolors Look Bad

You can't change anything until after the paint dries. This is hard to do. Leave it alone! You will be amazed at how beautiful it looks when it dries, **if you've left it alone.**

Big Puddles

You can soak up excess watercolor if you **don't touch the paper.** Twist a paper towel into a point, and use it to reduce the size of watercolor puddles that you don't want. Make new twists often. A dry brush can also be used to pull watercolor out of puddles.