

Paint - Quick Guide

Ready Mixed Paint

Also known as poster paint, tempera paint or school paint, this classroom favourite offers a time saving ready to use paint in bright, intermixable colours. Suitable for use by a wide range of ages and abilities.

- Use straight from the bottle reducing potential mess, saving prepping/mixing time
- Good for painting large areas of colour, fully intermixable
- Brilliant vivid colours with a creamy consistency, dries to a matt finish
- Highly pigmented ideal for impactful mark making & painting activities
- Easy to set up and clean down
- Combine with cornflour, shaving foam, washing up liquid or PVA to achieve a range of special effects and uses
- Perfect for stamping, printing, hand (& foot!) printing, mark making, marbling etc
- Ideal for early years, primary and secondary use



NB. Unless stated most ready mixed paints are not fully washable, lighter colours may washout easily, but darker pigmented paints may stain fabrics. It's recommended to always use aprons and table coverings.



Powder Paint

Yes, powder paint is messier to use than pre-mixed formulas but if you're searching for a versatile paint to use with young children to explore texture, colour, pattern and 'potion making', this might just be the paint for you!

- Dry, highly pigmented powder which mixes readily with water to produce vivid colours to a smooth creamy texture
- Versatile, creates a range of textures and effects when combined with shaving foam, PVA glue, cornflour, coloured sand etc
- Degree of consistency controlled by the amount of water used when mixing
- Ideal for poster painting work or general craft activities and the teaching of colour mix theory
- Ideal for use by young children
- Economical - can be mixed in small, controlled quantities preventing unnecessary waste
- Long shelf life as it's stored in powder form



How to mix:

Use a clean dry spoon to add powder to a mixing pot/palette

Dip a paint brush in water and stir into the powder paint. Introduce water slowly, to enable children to achieve their desired thickness of paint

Hints & Tips

Explore adding more/less water to the powder to understand the range of effects that can be achieved

Rain painting: Sprinkle powder paint onto paper and place outdoors in the rain and watch the colours change, mingle and create patterns

Spray painting: Use a fine mist water sprayer to spray powder paint scattered on a piece of paper and watch the marbled effects as they blend and merge together

Storage

Store in an airtight container to keep out moisture and prevent powder clumping together



Tempera Paint Blocks

Known as Tempera paint blocks or cakes this form of solid, concentrated paint saves classroom preparation time, is suitable for a range of ages and abilities and through its bold intermixable colours gives good results.

- Concentrated water-activated pigments in a solid disk like watercolour pans/tins but on a larger scale
- Rich, bold, opaque colours with a matt finish
- Different strengths of paint and paint effects can be achieved by using more or less water on the brush
- Ideal for dry brushing, sponging and watercolour effects
- Use on paper, watercolour paper, card etc
- Transportable paints ideal for use in the outdoor classroom
- Ready-made paint trays – quick to set up and clear away helping classroom management
- Easy clean up, wipe paint blocks over with water and a clean brush, blot to remove excess water, leave to dry
- Low mess, no paint spills ideal for young children
- Highly durable, economical paints
- Space saving, stored in palettes that can be stacked after use



Hints & Tips:

Don't mix paints on a paint 'cake' as it will contaminate the other colour, mix colours directly on the paper or a separate palette

Clean the paint brush in water between each colour used to avoid colour contamination

As a brush alternative, spray bottles filled with clean water can be used to spray on the 'cake' to activate the paint

Use a stiff bristle brush when using tempera blocks as these can be hard on soft bristle brushes and easily ruin them

The more you swirl a damp brush around a paint block the more paint you pick up, and the stronger the colour will be. For a softer more translucent 'watercolour' finish add more water to the brush and only swirl a little bit onto the paint block

Spray dry cracking blocks with water to moisten and recondition the paint cakes

Storage

Store in a cool, dry place

Allow the paint cakes to dry fully before storage to avoid mould growth

Wipe the top of each colour block to remove any contamination avoiding 'muddy' colours

Acrylic Paint

A multi-use fully intermixable paint in non-fading jewel colours that are perfect for a wide variety of school art & craft projects. Flexible, fast drying, durable and suitable for use on a range of porous and non-porous surfaces including paper, card, fabric, wood, metal, plastic etc.

- Ready to use versatile, water-based paint
- Used thick the paint can give the opaque impression of oil paints, watered down they give transparent watercolour effects
- Fast drying time enables projects to be completed quickly, ideal for the classroom
- Once dry, colours can be painted over either to correct mistakes or create different layering effects
- Vibrant, light fast colours which are fully intermixable and don't dull when dry
- Dries to a glossy, flexible, water-resistant finish
- Ideal for art, craft and DT for use on paper, card, canvas, MDF, papier mache, wood, ceramics even glass
- Available in different grades, student and artist



Hints & Tips:

When first using acrylic, learn about its consistency and how adding a varying amount of water, using different thicknesses and sizes of brushes affects it

Clean paint brushes in water immediately after use to prevent paint drying as this ruins brushes

Allow paint layers to dry before working over the top

Once dry, acrylic paint can't be removed from porous surfaces, cover surfaces and clothing that acrylic paint may spoil

Working between colours always wash your brush in water and use a cloth/tissue to remove any excess water



Watercolour Paint

Explore beautiful transparent and luminous effects using these highly pigmented solid paints. Activated by water and contained within a transportable tin with mixing palette 'lid' it's suitable for use by a range of ages and abilities.

- A transparent paint available in two forms; Pans and Tubes
- Pans are small plastic containers that hold dried, concentrated watercolour pigment activated by water
- Pans are easier to use than tubes and control the strength of colour for detail and small 'washes'
- Pans are long lasting, economical and can be replaced
- Tubes are ideal when high volumes of colour are needed when creating a background for instance
- Versatile, creates a variety of special effects using 'rubbing alcohol', salt, wet on wet techniques, dry brushing, glazing etc
- Watercolour tins featuring built in mixing trays are ideal for outdoor art activities
- If things go wrong a putty eraser can be used if the colour can't be mopped straight off



Hints & Tips:

Like paint blocks/cakes use a wetted brush or small mister spray to rehydrate the dried pan of paint ready for use

Empty pans could be replaced or filled with watercolour paint from a tube and left to dry out

Create a texture sheet: Divide a piece of watercolour paper into a grid using masking tape. Explore a variety of techniques in each section to understand & illustrate how the paint 'moves', write what each 'effect' is under each section for future reference eg using salt, 'rubbing alcohol', plastic wrap, paper towels, wax, masking fluid etc

Use paint brushes with soft absorbent bristles that hold significant amounts of water e.g. sable, squirrel or good quality synthetic brushes (more suitable for use in schools), large 'mop' brushes for large washes, small brushes for detail

140lb/300gsm is the standard weight of watercolour paper that allows for heavy washes of paint without buckling

Storage

Allow pans to dry completely before closing the tin to prevent mould growth

Paint Sticks

Creamy, vibrant paint contained in a mess free stick! Remove the lid, twist the base like a glue stick and draw. Crisp, smooth mark making in an instant, ideal for young artists. No water or brushes needed for use, encouraging independent use and ideal for continuous provision.

- Solid paint in a stick, smooth to apply, glides on surfaces like a crayon or glue stick
- Quick drying enabling layering of colours and mark making
- Supplied in a range of beautiful vibrant colours which can be blended on the surface being worked on
- Dry to a durable soft waxy finish with a slight sheen
- Versatile, use on a variety of surfaces porous and non-porous inc paper, card, wood, acrylic, mirror, MDF, glass, canvas etc
- No brushes or water needed to activate, remove the lid and start drawing/painting
- Transportable, ideal for both indoor and outdoor art and mark making
- Washes easily off most non-porous surfaces with soap and water
- Suitable for use by a range of ages and abilities.



Hints & Tips:

Water-soluble, simply wash off hands with soap and water

Add a little water on a brush to the paint to create colour effect paint washes

Perfect for using with homemade paper/card stencils or 'masked' areas, use the sticks to colour in the cut-out area, the paint creates crisp edges on the designs

Ensure lids are pushed on properly to avoid paint sticks from drying out

Paints may stain, ensure clothing and surfaces are fully protected when paint sticks are in use

When blending colours take care not to 'over blend' as this will lift both colours and spoil the effect

Satisfying, relaxing resource which when used can give therapeutic calming effects whilst encouraging creative expression

Storage

Re-attach lids to prevent drying out and needless waste