

Image not found

[L'atelier Canson](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/logo.png)

Published on *L'atelier Canson* (<https://www.cansonstudio.com>)

[Home](#) > Preparing your acrylic materials

Image not found

https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/btn-prece.png



[Return to article list](#) [1]

Preparing your acrylic materials

Image not found

[Twitter icon](https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/modules/socialmedia/icons/levelten/glossy/32x32/twitter.png) [2]



https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/article-fav.png



[Art Material](#) [5]

Rate this article

Give Preparing your acrylic materials 5/5 ?

Rate

While easy to use, acrylic paints do require some preparation! Some advice before getting started.

Image not found

[Acrylique - poser un apprêt](https://www.cansonconseils.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/files/acrylique-009-A_0.jpg)

1. Applying a primer

There are ready-to-use paper, cardboard, wood, plywood and canvas media. But you can also decide to use an unprepped medium to which you apply a primer.

- A primer is a substance spread on a medium to prepare it to receive paint. Gesso, which is easy to use, is the most often used primer for acrylics. When dry, it forms an impermeable, very flexible layer.
- Apply the gesso in thin layers with a wide, soft bristle brush. Once dry, sand, then apply a fresh coat perpendicular to the previous one. Your goal is a perfectly smooth, white surface.

Image not found

[Acrylique - organisation des couleurs](https://www.cansonconseils.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/files/acrylique-009-B_0.jpg)

2. Organizing your colors

Organizing your palette is an essential step. Note that there is no one-size-fits-all approach and we all have our own habits. Here are some simple principles you can follow:

- Always start by putting together a list of the shades you'll need **for painting your subject**.
- **Arrange your colors from lightest to darkest**, by "families" (yellow, red, etc.).
- **Make sure to always follow the same sequence**, whatever your favorite shades happen to be: that way, you can find your colors with your eyes shut!
- **Put a large amount of white at one end of the palette**, because you'll be using it more than any other shade.

Trick of the trade

- Acrylics dry very fast, so make sure you only put small amounts of paint on your palette.
- If your colors are drying too fast, add a few drops of water with your paintbrush or use a little atomizer to wet them.

3. Have water on hand

Whether or not you decide to dilute your paint, you need to keep a large amount of water handy for cleaning your paintbrushes regularly.

- **What kind of container do you need?** It doesn't matter: a yogurt or jelly jar, a plastic bottle with the top cut off, a cup or a bowl? Ideally, you'll have at least two containers, one for cleaning your paintbrushes and the other for diluting your paint.
- **What kind of water should you use?** Just use tap water. You can also buy demineralized or distilled water, because purer water has less effect on pigments.

Trick of the trade

Make sure you set up your work space near a source of water so you can get water faster.

4. Remember your accessories: a rag, a sponge and paper towels

They are very useful for erasing errors, creating effects and wiping off your paintbrushes. Keep them near your work space.

See also

Cleaning and maintaining your acrylic materials

Nettoyer et entretenir son matériel acrylique

Image not found

https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/styles/miniature___lire_aussi/public/acrylique-010.jpg?itok=T8nk9QQK

Acrylic paints are not messy and clean up easily with soap and water. But, like any other technique, you need to take good care of your materials so they last a long time!

Image not found

https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png

[DISCOVER](#) [6]

Acrylic paint

La peinture acrylique

Image not found

https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/default/files/styles/miniature___lire_aussi/public/acrylique-011.jpg?itok=QeUrvDu7

Versatility! Much appreciated by pros and neophytes alike, this one word summarizes the distinctive characteristic of acrylic paint. But where did this property come from? Background.

Image not found

https://www.cansonstudio.com/sites/all/themes/passerelle/cansonconseils/canson_commons/images/link-a-arrow.png

[DISCOVER](#) [7]

Links

[1] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/technique/acrylic>

[2] [//twitter.com/share?url=https://www.lateliercanson.com/printpdf/407&text=Preparing your acrylic materials](https://twitter.com/share?url=https://www.lateliercanson.com/printpdf/407&text=Preparing%20your%20acrylic%20materials) <https://www.lateliercanson.com/printpdf/407> via @CansonPaper

[3] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/printpdf/407>

[4] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/print/407>

[5] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/art-material>

[6] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/cleaning-and-maintaining-your-acrylic-materials>

[7] <https://www.cansonstudio.com/acrylic-paint>