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[Home](#) > [Acrylic: Painting with fillers](#)

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Acrylic: Painting with fillers



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Mix sand in your paint? Why not! This isn't some uninspired artist's hare-brained idea, it's a frequently used technique for creating a coarse, rather spectacular texture. What you need to know about mineral fillers.

What you need to know

- Fillers are substances added to paint. They do not change the color at all, but give it a grainy, slightly coarse, appearance.
- Fillers are very practical for suggesting an expanse of sand or the surface of a rock, for example.

1. What kind of filler should you choose?

You have a choice from ready-to-use to 100% handmade!



Acrylic painting pastes: Acrylic paint and filler mixes are ideal for beginners, because they come ready-to-use. You have (almost) nothing to do!

- **Crushed marble:** This is one of the most used mineral powders. It is marketed in various degrees of coarseness. You can mix it by adding acrylic paint to the powder.
- **Note:** because the powder is very dense, you need a significant amount of paint.
- **River sand:** remember to collect some when walking along a stream! Wash and boil it to get rid of any organic residue. Mix it with the paint later.

Note: because sand contains various grain sizes and colors, it has a quite irregular texture.

Have fun! You can add? anything you want: wood shavings, newsprint, confetti, glitter, etc.

2. Adding a filler

- Select a firm medium: thick cardboard or canvas mounted on a frame.
- Use a spatula to mix the filler with white acrylic paint from a tube.
- Spread the resulting paste on the medium with the spatula.
- Once the paste is dry, preserve the original texture by using diluted colors to paint over it. Use a pig bristle brush with slightly worn bristles, because they can hold more pigments.



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