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[Home](#) > [Using watercolor pencils](#)

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[Return to article list](#) <sup>[1]</sup>

# Using watercolor pencils



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[Professional Tips](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

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watercolor pencils (or watercolor

crayons) resemble ordinary color pencils, but, when diluted with water, they can produce a broad number of pictorial effects. they are perfect for detail work in watercolor painting: light sparkling and reflecting on water, the interplay of shadows and light, foliage, etc.

They can be used by themselves when working outdoors: sketching from life or illustrating a travel diary.

**What you need to know**

? soft leads are recommended for creating washes; hard leads are good for details and lines.

? When getting started, a few basic shades are enough. Soft leads are better because they dilute more easily.

- **Doing a wash**

Hatch a small area of paper with a watercolor pencil. Then moisten with a paintbrush: the more vigorous your gesture, the more you lighten the pencil lines to obtain a homogenous color area.

- **Drawing on a wash**

Apply a wash in the color of your choosing to the paper. Then scribble on the still wet surface with a watercolor pencil: preferably, use close shades. The wash will seem more intense

- **Creating textures on wet paper**

Moisten the paper with the paintbrush, then scribble away with a watercolor pencil. Alternate the pressure applied to the pencil as you work: this produces a somewhat blurry, slightly washed effect, in an especially intense color.



**Blurring lines**

Dip the tip of the watercolor pencil in a jar of tap water, then hatch a corner of the paper quickly: this will produce a slightly blurred line.

## **Suggested products**

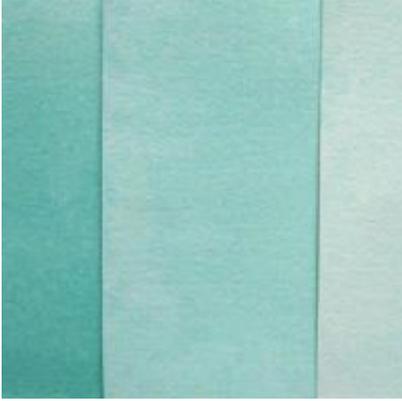
### **Canson® XL® Watercolour**



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## **See also**

**Watercolor: Doing a flat wash**



Are you just getting started with watercolors? The wash is THE essential process to know and master!

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