WATERCOLOR SWATCH LABELS

Mix enough paint for the entire wash to be a uniform consistency. Load the brush evenly. Use as large a brush as is comfortable for the size of the wash.

Start in one corner and keep leading edges wet while working. Otherwise they'll dry out before you finish!

Use paper with a texture; it is difficult to achieve good dry brushing on hot press paper.

Hold the brush at various angles to the paper. Skim the surface texture with the brush.

Try different brushes and vary the amount of pigment and water.

Use scumbling to create feathery or furry textures on animals, as well as ground surfaces of dirt and rocks.

Create loose textures for trees and branches by scumbling some areas, and flicking leaves or pine bough needles with the tip of the brush.

Linear scumbling is a great way to paint water ripples!

Apply glazes in thin layers – patience pays off!

Let underpainting dry completely. Damp paint will cause problems and blooms you may not want.

If shading, try adding a little complementary color to a glaze to darken the image.

Wait for paint to dry completely before lifting.

Test colors ahead on scrap paper to check for staining.

Try leaving the water drops in place for a moment for stubborn colors.

Paper must be DRY before applying masking fluids!

Use an old brush – but dip the brush into a liquid dish soap before using to make it easier to clean the brush after.

Use an adhesive pickup to keep grease stains from skin away. Wait for the paint to be completely dry before removing the masking fluid!

For best results, colors should have about the same amount of water in their mixes.

"Fix" areas by moving and adding more of either color – while everything is still very wet.

More interesting color and blending happens on quality papers – upgrade your supplies for best results.

Wet paint: load the brush with water, and the tip with paint.

Dry paint: check the staining properties of the color first.

Use soft gradient washes to create atmosphere.

Paint the area and be sure the wash remains wet.

Rub the end of the pencil lightly on sandpaper, holding it over the wet paint. Move color around with brush as needed.

Shave into different sections by allowing paint to dry between applications.

Technique 1: Wet the surface of the paper with clean water. Begin to drop color at the top, wetting the brush slightly more with each pass.

Technique 2: Create a pool of the darkest shade first; add a little water to the brush and paint a second area below the first and join them. Continue to add water in successive strips of color until reaching the end.

While watercolor is wet, sprinkle salt and allow to dry.

To stop effect at a desired point, dab off wet color and carefully remove salt.

Some brands and colors work better with salt than others – test paint first.