

Take care of your watercolour brushes!

Take great care of your paint brushes. This will prolong their life and give you better tools to work with. Good brushes can be expensive to buy and whilst no brush will last for ever, you want to get as long a life as possible out of them.

Always use the right brush for the type of paint you are using: water-colour brushes must *only* be used with pure water colours - nothing else. Using the wrong type of paint with a watercolour brush will invariably ruin it for its intended purpose.

Never leave brushes standing in water - even for a short time. This very quickly bends the hairs of water-colour brushes and ruins the shape of the brush. It also removes the varnish from the handle and makes them more likely to fall apart later.

Never use your best watercolour brushes for mixing watercolour paint - use an old brush for that job!

Always clean brushes thoroughly after use. Water colour brushes should be washed only in clean water.

After cleaning a water-colour brush make sure that the hairs of the brush are straightened by shaping it carefully with your fingers.

Please note that the hairs of a brush may become stained by the paint. This is unavoidable and does not affect the brush to any great extent as long as the actual paint is removed.

Take care when replacing brushes in storage cases. Make sure the hairs are not bent over - otherwise they will remain in that shape as they dry out, and may never regain their original shape.

Always allow brushes to dry out in an upright position - in an open airy situation. If you have to put damp brushes into a brush case - leave the case open - or open it as soon as possible. Damp brushes constantly left in a cramped environment can go mouldy and never perform as well again.

A little care will save a lot of ruined brushes!