



CHOOSING THE RIGHT WATERCOLOR PAPER



FINISH

Manufacturers generally offer three traditional finishes, usually labeled rough/unfinished, cold press, or hot press.

Rough or unfinished	Cold Press	Hot Press
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Not smoothed or pressed to retain rough textureStrong tooth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Smoothed slightly by cold rollers or platesLess texturedWeaker tooth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Smoothed completely with heated rollers or platesAllows for the most detailFlat, hard surface

WEIGHT

Typically in the U.S., papers are measured by the weight in pounds of one ream (500 sheets). However, the irregularity of this conventional method has led to the use of metric measurements or grams per square meter (gsm). Use the chart below as a quick guide.

Paper Type	Weight in lbs	Weight in gsm
Tracing paper	25lbs	40gsm
Newsprint	30-35lbs	45-50gsm
Sketch paper	50-60lbs	74-89gsm
Drawing paper	70-80lbs	100-130gsm
Bristol	100lbs	260gsm
Watercolor	140lbs	300gsm

SIZE

Size is a natural or synthetic solution added to paper to prevent it from absorbing too much moisture. Sizing is added to the paper pulp during manufacturing or applied to the paper surface after the sheet has been formed. Some paper is both internally and surface-sized.

TYPES

Sheets	Blocks	Panels
Tape-Bound Pads	Wire-Bound Pads	

