



# 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"><li>• Not smoothed or pressed to retain rough texture</li><li>• Strong tooth</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smoothed slightly by cold rollers or plates</li><li>• Less textured</li><li>• Weaker tooth</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smoothed completely with heated rollers or plates</li><li>• Allows for the most detail</li><li>• Flat, hard surface</li></ul> |

## 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 |        |

