

Paint Comparison Guide

Explore. Compare. Create.

<i>Paint</i>	<i>History</i>	<i>Best Use</i>	<i>Strengths</i>	<i>Challenges</i>	<i>Techniques</i>	<i>Artists</i>
Oil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renaissance Europe • Dominated fine art for centuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realism • Portraits • Layered depth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich color • Smooth blending • Long working time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very slow drying • Needs solvents • Can crack 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glazing • Impasto • Scumbling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Da Vinci • Rembrandt • Van Gogh
Acrylic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1950s invention • Modern and widely used 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast work • Layering • Mixed media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick drying • Versatile • Water cleanup 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dries too fast • Color shift • Less blend time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry brush • Layering • Pouring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hockney • Riley
Watercolor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient roots • Popular in 18th–19th c. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sketching • Landscapes • Light studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparent • Portable • Soft effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hard to fix • Requires planning • Fades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wet-on-wet • Glazing • Lifting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turner • Homer
Gouache	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19th–20th c. • Used in design/illustration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design • Posters • Illustration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opaque • Matte finish • Bold color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reactivates • Can crack • Color shift 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flat layering • Detail work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matisse • Schiele
Tempera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient medium • Pre-oil Renaissance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detail work • Icons • Panels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precise • Durable • Stable color 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited blending • Fast drying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine brushwork 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Botticelli • Giotto

