



Watercolor Planning Cheatsheet

Plan smarter, paint better — with Procreate as your sketchbook



Step 1: Sketch Your Layout

- Open a blank canvas in Procreate (A4 or 3000x2000px recommended)
 - Use a **pencil or pen brush** (low opacity)
 - Lightly sketch your composition — don't worry about details
 - Focus on:
 - Balance
 - Placement
 - Visual flow
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Step 2: Test Your Color Palette

- Choose 3–5 colors that match your subject
- Use **color blocks** or lightly fill sketch areas
- Try **multiple variations** in different layers
- Ask:
 - Do these colors feel harmonious?
 - Are there enough light/dark contrasts?



Tip: Use your own Procreate color palettes or watercolor brush sets



Step 3: Play With Composition

- Duplicate your sketch layer

- Try moving elements around:
 - Centered vs. offset
 - Zoomed in vs. negative space
 - Symmetry vs. flow
 - Toggle layers to compare side-by-side
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Step 4: Annotate for Painting

- Add quick notes on:
 - Color transitions
 - Light direction
 - Background wash style
 - Save a “final plan” layer to reference during painting
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Step 5: Export + Print (Optional)

- Export your final sketch with color as:
 - JPG (for printing reference)
 - PNG (to overlay on photos or journal pages)
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Want My Favorite Tools?

- ✓ Procreate Watercolor Brushes
Pre-made Color Palettes
- ✓ Printable Art Templates

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