FREE PRINTABLE CHECKLIST

Finish & Protect

A one-page checklist for sealing your watercolours, plus a daisy outline to practise on

KEEP THIS BY YOUR DESK

Finish & Protect Checklist

Before you start
Leave the painting at least 24 hours, until it is bone dry. Sign it. Sweep off dust and any rubber crumbs.

Choose your finish
Going behind glass? You don't need varnish: use a mat so the paper never touches the glass. Hanging without glass? Mount it on board first, then varnish.

Test first
Paint a scrap of the same paper with the same colours and test your varnish on that. Varnish can deepen colours a little, and it can't be undone.

Spray in light coats
Work outdoors or somewhere well ventilated. Hold the can about 30 cm away and keep it moving. Do 3 or 4 light coats, drying between each as the can says.

Brushing varnish on?
Only ever over a sprayed coat, never straight on to bare watercolour, or the paint will lift.

Hang it well
Keep it out of direct sun, away from radiators and away from damp walls.

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Print at 100% on A4, or Fit to page on US Letter.

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Printing your pages

A quick guide to the questions people ask me most. Keep it by your printer!

1 No printer?

No problem. Put the files on a USB stick or email them to yourself, then print at a library or a print shop (for example Ryman in the UK or Staples in the US). Ask for "actual size" on matte paper.

2 A4 or US Letter?

My pages are A4. On US Letter paper, choose "Fit to page" (or "Scale to fit") in the print box, so nothing gets cut off.

3 Too big or cut off?

Check the paper size in the print box matches the paper in your tray (A4 or Letter). Then choose "Fit to page" and turn off "borderless" printing.

4 Which paper?

Journal pages: matte paper, 120–160gsm. Covers and envelopes: thin card, if your printer takes it. Glossy paper is not good for glue or paint.

5 Watercolour templates

Only feed watercolour paper through a printer with a rear or manual feed (check its heaviest paper). Or print on ordinary paper and trace the lines onto watercolour paper at a sunny window or on a lightbox.

6 Print one test page first

Check the size and the colours on one page before you print the whole set. It saves paper, ink and tears.

7 Saving ink

Use "draft" or "economy" mode for background papers you'll write over, and print only the pages you need by typing a page range in the print box.

8 Booklet or two-up pages

If your kit has a booklet version, print it double-sided with "flip on short edge", then fold the sheets in half and nest them together.

9 No need to print at all

You can open the PDF or the image files on an iPad in an app like Goodnotes or Procreate, and journal or paint straight onto the pages.

Still stuck? Email me at info@artsydee.com with a photo of what's happening, and I'll help.

Happy making, Dee x · *artsydee.com*

LOVE PAINTING?

Paint With Me on Patreon

My weekly watercolour template sets go out to members there: printed outlines with painted references, so you can see where the colour goes.

Patreon

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Come and join me

www.patreon.com/Artsydee

More tutorials are on the blog: artsydee.com/how-to-seal-watercolor-painting

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