



Costa Vavagiakis

526 58th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220 | tel/fax 718 439-1631 | costa@costavavagiakis.com

pastel: supplies for plein air

[Note: As you put together your supplies and equipment to paint outdoors, think lightweight and portable, find creative ways to simplify everything you carry with you on a painting trip. You will want to have a selection of both soft and hard pastels in various hues, tints and shades.]

Soft Pastels

Many companies sell sets selected for landscape. The larger sets will give you greater choices and require less blending. I recommend that you purchase a high-quality landscape set of no less than 24 colors from one of these companies:

- Sennelier Half-Stick Soft Pastel Sets | [purchase](#)
- Terry Ludwig Soft Pastel Sets | [purchase](#)
- Schmincke Soft Pastel Sets | [purchase](#)
- Art Spectrum Soft Pastel Sets | [purchase](#)
- Holbein Soft Pastel Sets | [purchase](#)

Hard Pastels

I recommend you purchase a small set of 24 or 36—they will last years. These are much less expensive than the soft pastels.

- Prismacolor NuPastel Color Set | [purchase](#)
- Cretacolor Pastel Carré Hard Pastel Set | [purchase](#)
- Sargent Art Square Chalk Pastels | [purchase](#)
- Stabilo CarbOthello Pastel Pencils | [purchase](#)

Pastel Paper/Boards

I prefer to use specifically prepared cards/papers, which have toothy, gritty coatings on them and a heavy stock. These coatings will accept lots of pastel and reworking without plugging up or going slick. The heavy weight eliminates wrinkling and flapping in the wind. I suggest you purchase prepared papers/boards from any one of these companies:

- Coloufix Paper | [purchase](#)
- Wallis Sanded Pastel Paper | [purchase](#)
- Sennelier La Carte Pastel Card Pads | [purchase](#)
- Clairefontaine Pastelmat Card Pads | [purchase](#)
- Richeson Gator Foam Premium Pastel Surfaces | [purchase](#)

Boards

You can buy Foamboard cut several inches larger than paper size to tape/mount the paper to.

- Gatorfoam Board | [purchase](#)
- Pre-Cut Foamboard | [purchase](#)
- Black Foamboard | [purchase](#)
- Crescent No. 200 Illustration Board | [purchase](#)

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Accessories

- Nichiban Tape 2" wide | [purchase](#) | [purchase](#)
- Fixative | [purchase](#)
- Soft Vine Charcoal | [purchase](#)
- Kneaded Eraser | [purchase](#)
- Natural Chamois | [purchase](#)
- Stomps, Tortillons, etc as required by your personal style | [purchase](#)
- Knitting Needle or Straight Skewer | [purchase](#)
- View-Finder | [purchase](#)
(or make your own: Make two "L" shapes out of cardboard, about 7" - 8" on the leg and 1½" wide. Hold together with binder clips)
- Binder Clips and/or Bankers Clasps to hold down the paper in the wind | [purchase](#)
- A box of wipes to clean your fingers (or latex gloves if you use them) | [purchase](#)