



Brush Care Guide



craftamo
let your creativity run wild

craftamo

brush care guide

Dear Valued Customer,

Thank you for your purchasing Craftamo Artist Brushes. We truly appreciate your custom! If there is anything we can help you with specifically, please contact us over at [our support desk by clicking here](#).

We hope you enjoy your purchase!

Dan - CEO, Craftamo

The advantages of synthetic bristles:

All our brushes are made of synthetic hair with nylon filaments, which offers many benefits. The advantages to using a synthetic brush are: -

1. They are less prone to damage from the paint used or the solvents when cleaning.
2. They are easier to clean than animal hair.
3. They are more durable and longer lasting than animal hair.
4. They are better for using with acrylics because synthetic fibres can withstand the slightly caustic effect of acrylic paint with much less damage to the brush.

Although no animals are harmed for the purpose of brush making, some people just do not like the thought of using animal hair brushes, so synthetics are perfect if you have that opinion.

Before Use

During manufacture, your brushes are treated with a water soluble size. This means that the bristles will arrive slightly stiffened - we do this to protect the bristles from damage during the manufacturing process and of course, during transit.

You should remove this before use by washing the brush with brush soap (or mild hand soap) and water, or specially made brush care products.



Caring For Your Brushes

With proper care and cleaning your Craftamo Artist Brushes can last for years!

You just need to keep your paint brushes happy. **Here's how:** -

1. Never Let The Paint Dry On A Paint Brush

Whilst painting, it's very easy to allow paint to dry on the bristles, especially when working with acrylics! We recommend to your brushes wet at all times, and do not allow the paint to dry on the brush. The longer you let it dry, the harder the paint will become, and the harder it will be to clean the brush without ruining it. So always clean your brushes immediately.

2. Do Not Rest Your Brushes Bristles Down

Never leave your brushes in a jar with the bristles down, whether in water or not. Doing this causes the bristles to bend and fray, and it is almost impossible to correct. When you are working with more than one brush, we recommend making use of the Craftamo pop up brush holder which will keep them accessible and safe.

3. Do Not Get Paint On The Ferrule

The part that connects the handle to the bristles is called the ferrule and you should always try to avoid getting paint on this part of the brush. If you do, it is difficult to clean and can result in the bristles getting frayed.

4. Do Not Leave Them In Water Or Solvent

There are a few good reasons not to do this. The wooden handles can swell and the metal ferrules can corrode. Constant immersion in water with the bristles facing down will misshape the bristles and spread them out too much. If left in solvent this can easily degrade and bend the bristles. Remember that every part of your brush can get damaged if left in water or solvent.

5. Do Not Store Your Brushes Until Dry

Putting them away before they are dry can harm your brushes. They can develop mildew.

Cleaning

The best method for cleaning brushes depends on the medium you are using, however as a general rule clean your brushes thoroughly and immediately after each use, especially when using acrylics. You should clean brushes right away to avoid paint drying on the bristles, and to ensure you have clean, fresh paint brushes waiting for you next time you paint.



Cleaning Watercolour Brushes

Watercolor brushes are the easiest to clean. Cold or warm clean water should be perfectly adequate. Just remember, don't give paint the opportunity to dry on your brushes. Swish them about in a jar of water or under a gently running tap.

Touch them on to a sheet of white kitchen roll and if absolutely no color comes out, they are clean. You can then gently flick them to restore the shape.

Pigment particles can build up at the base of the brush, and can push hairs apart. To avoid this, wipe your water colour brush clean with a lint-free rag and rinse it under running water. Then, using mild soap and cool water, swirl the soapy brush in the palm of your hand and rinse.

Repeat the washing and rinsing process until the soap and water runs clear.

Leave brushes to air dry at room temperature, making sure the bristles are not in contact with any surface. You can use the handy Craftamo pop up stand to air dry them thoroughly!

Cleaning Acrylic Brushes

Looking after an acrylic brush is similar to looking after a watercolor brush. However, there are also some differences to note.

The most important thing to remember with regard to caring for your acrylic brushes is not to allow the acrylic paint to dry on the bristles, as the paint is not soluble in this state and will produce a plastic-like dried texture. Wash your acrylic brushes immediately after use. Whilst painting, keep rinsing, and leave them in water because they can dry out very quickly.

This is easier said than done, as thin layers of paint can dry near the ferrule even while you are working!

After your painting session clean your acrylic brush with mild soap and cool water, but for a more thorough clean, soak the brush in Brush Cleaner, which will remove any dried acrylic color.

Then repeat the washing and rinsing process until the soap and water runs clear.

Leave brushes to air dry at room temperature, making sure the bristles are not in contact with any surface. You can use the handy Craftamo pop up stand to air dry them thoroughly.

Cleaning Oil Brushes

As far as oils are concerned, some form of solvent is a necessity to clean brushes properly.

After working with oils, use a rag to wipe away as much color as possible from your brush. Then rinse any remaining color using White Spirit or Brush Cleaner.



Next, as you would when cleaning your hands, create a lather and rinse the brush under warm (not hot) water until the water runs clear of color and soap.

Gently remove excess moisture.

Leave brushes to air dry at room temperature, making sure the bristles are not in contact with any surface. Again, you can use the handy Craftamo pop up stand to air dry them thoroughly.

Do I Need Special Soap To Clean My Paint Brushes?

There are special soaps that are meant for cleaning artist paint brushes. These soaps are gentle and milder on the hairs of the brush than regular hand soap, because they are specially formulated to clean and condition brushes. Usually one dish or bar of paintbrush soap will last you a very long time.

If you don't have any paintbrush soap, it's okay to use regular hand soap. Just don't use dishwashing liquid, which normally has chemicals that are too strong for the delicate hairs of an artist paint brush.

Storage And Transportation

Store your clean brushes vertically - head-side-up. Make sure that brushes aren't resting against the tips of other brushes, or they can become deformed. Use the brush protectors provided when necessary.

The Craftamo pop up stand and travel case (shown below) is perfect to protect your brushes from damage during transit.

Happy Painting!
Dan - CEO, Craftamo

