

How to Pack your Paints when Flying



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Number One advice - Use your common sense. No paint in your carry-on. The below is for packing your painting supplies in checked luggage.

I travel with two suitcases, one for my clothes and one for my art supplies and easel. All art supplies are water soluble. No turps or oils.



I Use Ziploc® Bags

All my acrylic paints are well displayed in well marked plastic Ziploc bags. My business card is included in each bag and my workshop logo stuck on the outside.



Include Your Business Cards In Your Luggage

It's overkill, but I also write on the outside of the plastic bag "watercolor artist supplies." Never say "Paint" - never! To the TSA, "paint" translates to explosives and this is no time to educate them. Hint: While going thru airport security, don't talk! Too many times I've seen painters nervously yakking to security, only to be pulled out of line and scanned or frisked.



Overview Of My Packed Bag

Also, inside your suitcase, you might want to place a MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) which explains the paint ingredients. You can download MSDS from the paint manufacturer's website. Security personnel are now hip to seeing and understanding these sheets.

Any liquids like gels or gesso are packed in pint sized wide mouth jars, lids on tightly and taped, placed individually in Ziploc bags and well marked - write "water-based."



Watercolor Artist Supplies

Notice I write "Vacation" on some bags? It's why I travel abroad, isn't it? Isn't it?

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