

Art Supply House

Tip of the Month

MAY

Brushes are among the most important tools of any artist; proper care and handling will keep them in good shape for years. Here are some tips for looking after brushes, from the point of purchase through to their last use. First, avoid leaving your brush bristle-down for any amount of time, this may cause fibers to lose their desired shape. Keep paint away from the ferrule end of the bristles where it is difficult to remove and will lead to spreading of the hairs. Dedicate brushes for specific purposes, such as masking fluid, varnish or gesso. Also, keep water-media brushes separate from those used for oil-based paints, to avoid unnecessary abuse by solvents and diverse painting mediums. Dip your brush in water or linseed oil before you start painting, this helps protect fibers from damage caused by pigments. Finally, after washing, reshape brushes by using a small amount of mild vegetable-based soap, or brush soap such as *The Masters* or *Pink Soap*. Letting the soap dry in the brush and rinsing it out before the next use acts as a conditioner, and will help maintain the shape of the brush far better than cleaning alone.



Visit the Art Supply House during the Month of May to receive 20% off the brushes of your choice.

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