

Watercolor Pumpkins 3 Ways for Beginners



Watercolor pumpkins come in a lot of different colors, so yours can be any color you like.

Colors for Orange Pumpkins:

- Orange – transparent pyrrole orange or mix your own with red + yellow
- Yellow – any good yellow but a yellow that leans towards orange is the best (Diarylide Yellow, New Gamboge, etc.)
- Brown – a dark brown for deeper shading – Burnt Sienna + Ultramarine Blue = Dark Brown

Step 1 – Draw or trace your pumpkin outline, keeping the lines light.

Paint by segments for realism (left pumpkin)

- Wet each segment with clean water or light yellow. Add orange to the sides and bottom and blend. Add some brown + orange to the sides and bottom for darker shades. If it gets too dark, lift off some of the color.

Paint in one go (right pumpkin)

- Wet the entire pumpkin.
- Paint orange on the bottom and yellow or yellow/orange on the top, then blend the two colors in the middle.
- Add orange/brown to the bottom and lines.
- Add salt while wet if you want more texture.

Painting the shading first (white pumpkin), then add color (for any other colored pumpkin)

- Wet the pumpkin.
- Use gray (Ultramarine + orange or any gray) to paint shadow color on the lines and bottom.
- Dry well. If you want a colored pumpkin, wash a layer of color over top the shading.

Step 3 – Add a foreground, drippy or otherwise.

Use a big brush and concentrated color to add a foreground under the pumpkins. Use black or dark gray to add shading directly underneath each pumpkin, but don't make the dark outline the bottom.

For drips, tilt the paper and drop on paint or water in the paint until it drips down.

Step 4 – Adding a Background

Your background can be any color. I used very light gray, sprinkled with salt, drew in a few lines for grass, then added a touch of dark above the two big pumpkins.

