

ink guide

Find the right ink for your project using our chart of the many varieties.

	Characteristics	Best used for	Tips for use
<p>▶ dye ink</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fast-drying • waterproof • not colorfast • absorbs into paper • feathers when drying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic stamping on porous surfaces • watercoloring inside the image to add color • glossy paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • don't put too much ink on your stamp
<p>▶ pigment ink</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acid-free • slow-drying • vivid colors • thicker consistency • dries on the surface of paper • available in many colors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic stamping on porous surfaces • blending color • inking paper edges • embossing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if blending colors, apply the lighter color first so that you don't discolor your ink pads • heat-set to speed up drying time
<p>▶ watermark ink</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acid-free • slow-drying • slightly tacky • colorless • stamps a tone-on-tone image 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creating a watermark image • embossing • resist stamping but requires a longer drying time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clean stamps before using so that you don't stain your ink pad • heat-set to speed up drying time
<p>▶ solvent ink</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fast-drying • will dry on nonporous surfaces • available in limited colors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stamping on nonporous surfaces such as glass, metal, plastic, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a cleaner specifically for solvent inks for cleaning your stamps
<p>▶ spray ink</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acid-free • a liquid that you can spray or dip to apply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coloring fabrics or paper but also works on nonporous surfaces such as glass and metal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • place newspapers around what you're spraying for easy cleanup
<p>▶ alcohol ink</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acid-free • fast-drying • transparent • fade-resistant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stamping on glossy paper, glass, metal, and other nonporous surfaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use with an alcohol blending solution to soften the colors
<p>▶ chalk ink</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has characteristics of both dye and pigment inks • long-lasting, fade-resistant color that blends well • soft, nonvibrant colors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic stamping • direct-to-paper and resist techniques • dark cardstock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heat-set the ink for permanence
<p>▶ resist ink</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • repels other inks on glossy paper • acid-free • fast-drying 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stamping a negative image 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use with chalk or dye inks on glossy papers for best results
<p>▶ walnut ink</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acid-free • available in many colors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • antiquing porous surfaces • creating a soft tint on glossy cardstock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • apply with a sprayer, dauber, or soft brush for different looks