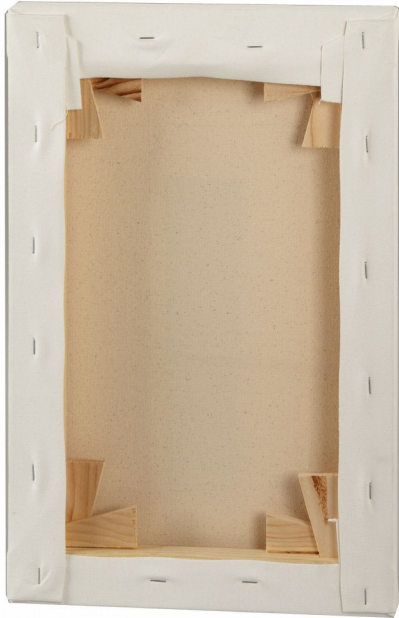




Utrecht Art Supplies

Product Profiles: Primed Canvas Basics



Q: I purchased a pre-stretched canvas for the first time recently. Is it ready to use, or do I need to prime it before I can start painting? Does it matter what kind of paint?"

A: Pre-stretched canvases are already primed and don't require any additional treatment before painting. What sort of priming is on the canvas will determine what type of paint it can accept.

Acrylic priming provides a near-universal ground. An acrylic-primed canvas can accept oils, acrylics or alkyds right from the package. This is the same type of ground the artist would apply in the studio using Acrylic Gesso.

Oil-primed and **alkyd-primed** canvases are coated with a dense, lean primer formulated to promote good paint adhesion. Underneath the primer is a layer of synthetic glue which protects the fabric. Acrylic paint is not compatible with this type of priming- oil- and alkyd-primed canvas should only be used with oil and alkyd based paints and mediums.



Adding Additional Primer

It's not uncommon for artists to apply a priming of their own choice on top of pre-stretched canvases.

While strictly optional, some artists like to apply additional acrylic gesso to factory-prepared canvases to achieve a heavier, thirstier ground with more texture.

Pre-stretched canvases with acrylic priming can also be oil primed in the studio. Use Oil Priming White or another oil-based painting ground- follow package directions for priming, but omit the sizing, since the existing acrylic gesso layer will serve to protect the canvas beneath.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

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