

ACRYLIC PAINT DRYING TIMES



5-20 Minutes

To Make Acrylics Dry Faster

- Decrease Humidity
- Increase Temperature
- Increase Air Flow
- Paint in Thin layers
- Paint on Absorbent Surfaces
- Use Regular Acrylics Without Retarders



60+ Minutes

To Make Acrylics Dry Slower

- Increase Humidity
- Avoid High Temperatures
- Decrease Airflow
- Paint in Thick Layers
- Paint on Nonabsorbent Surfaces
- Add Retarder to the Paint

The table below lists the major manufacturers of acrylics and their statements about how long it takes for their paints to dry. **Most acrylic paints dry to the touch within 10-20 minutes.** This is not a hard and fast rule, as there are many variables that you can adjust to make the paint dry faster or slower.

Slow drying acrylics, or acrylics with retarder added to them, provide the longest working time. They can remain workable on the canvas for hours, depending upon the variables listed above.

Stored in an airtight palette, slow drying acrylics can stay wet for over a month.

There are also interactive acrylics that you can rewet by misting them with water or a special spray.

"Dry to the touch" vs cured acrylic paint

Paint that's dry to the touch doesn't have the same strength as paint that has had a chance to cure. Acrylic paint dries to the touch within minutes but the strength of the paint film isn't fully developed until all of the moisture evaporates. The acrylic molecules coalesce into a strong paint film as the water evaporates.

Thin layers acrylic require a few days to cure, while it may take weeks or months for thick layers to cure entirely.

Make sure the paint is fully cured before varnishing the painting. It can turn cloudy if you varnish it before all of the moisture has had a chance to evaporate. Golden recommends waiting 30 days before varnishing over OPEN acrylics.

Brand of Acrylic	Manufacturers Comments About Acrylic Drying Times	Source
Amsterdam	"Acrylic colours are a quick-drying paint"	https://www.royaltalens.com/en-gb/products/acrylic-colours/
Atelier Interactive	"For controlled wet blending apply Unlocking Formula by brush or atomiser to keep paintings wet as long as desired."	http://atelieracrylic.com/products/atelier-interactive/
Daler Rowney	"Cryla Artists' Acrylic colours on average dry normally between 5 - 10 minutes"	http://www.daler-rowney.com/files/webform/pdf/CRYLA%20Technical%20Handbook.pdf
Golden Heavy Body	" Wet: <5 min. Workable: 10 min touch dry: 30 min. Locked down: 3+ days"	https://www.goldenpaints.com/technicalinfo/technicalinfo_open
Golden Open Acrylics	" Wet: 30-60 min Workable: 1-3 hrs. Can still be reopened: 12 hrs. Touch dry: 24+ hrs. Locked down: 14+ days"	https://www.goldenpaints.com/technicalinfo/technicalinfo_open
Lascaux	NA	https://lascaux.ch/en/products/colours/lascaux-artist
Liquitex	"Thin paint films will dry in 10- 20 minutes while thick paint films may take from an hour up to several days."	Page 9 of <i>Liquitex Acrylic Book</i> (free PDF) https://www.liquitex.com/row/wp-content/uploads/sites/43/2018/12/LIQUITEX-ACRYLIC-BOOK.pdf
M Graham	"Allowing you up to an hour of working time (depending on temperature and humidity)"	https://mgraham.com/artists-colors/acrylics/
Pebeo	"...they dry quickly and they are resistant to aging."	http://en.pebeo.com/Fine-Art/Acrylic
Sennelier	NA	http://www.sennelier-colors.com/en/Acrylique-extra-fine-additifs_86.html
Tri Art	"Thin paint films will dry to the touch within a few minutes, while thicker quantities will need several hours."	https://www.tri-art.ca/faq.html#FAQ7
Utrecht	"Air-dry by evaporation. Thin paint films: 10 - 20 minutes. Thick paint films: 1 hour - 3 days."	https://www.utrechtart.com/Acrylic-Paint-Paint.utrecht
Winsor & Newton Galeria	"Galeria: Thin films of colour will dry in 10-20 minutes whereas thicker films can take an hour or more."	http://www.winsornewton.com/na/discover/tips-and-techniques/acrylic-colour/drying-times-for-acrylic-paints-us
Winsor & Newton Professional	"Thin films of Professional Acrylic will dry in 20-30 minutes and thicker films can take an hour or two. This will vary according to environmental conditions."	http://www.winsornewton.com/na/discover/tips-and-techniques/acrylic-colour/drying-times-for-acrylic-paints-us