

TESTED

£580 | CRAZYFLY RAPTOR PRO LTD
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Introducing

The Raptor looks like it's stepped out of a Formula One factory. And with its sexy carbon finish, defined channels and colour coded fins and straps and handle, it looks like a front row weapon. It's the top line product from those plucky designers at CrazyFly who are always up for a challenge and certainly ticks all the 'top tier board' board boxes in the looks department – would it do the same on the water?

Build

Up top Pads are comfy. Once worn in, the ridge under your toes gives excellent grip and is super soft and comfy. Straps are easy to adjust and come with a reasonable range of settings, allowing both wide freestyle stance and more comfortable compromise stance too. The handle is solid, and comfy too. **Construction** It's the nuts. Everyone loves carbon, and this just screams class and sex appeal with a really cool weave pattern to the full carbon wrap machine. The channels also look great in the carbon finish. Fins are top quality G10, with CF graphics to finish the bling. **Design** These days brands are either going conservative on the shape with flat lines and low rocker on the freestyle sticks, or balls deep in attitude, rocker, grip channels, funk and weight... This is the latter, but with class. It's got some attitude and lots of unique design features (like the defined channels throughout and super rocker), yet it comes with climate control, electric pack, and heated seats for a smooth ride comfort and added pleasure!

Performance

Get up and Go It does, it wants to, then it stays. Being a freestyle orientated board this plucky twin is really happy in the chop and gets going well in marginal conditions. Its respectable width keeps the spray at bay and makes the ride comfy, while the rocker keeps the nose up through the lumps. **Flex and Pop** It's carbon. It has buckets of both. It's responsive and lively, yet not knee shatteringly so. Good work for this, as it's often the case – the extra rocker helps here too.

Ride comfort and Tracking It goes there when persuaded. It's not the best upwind but far from average for a board of this calibre. Once up and going it grips like you wouldn't believe and keeps your eye sockets dry at the same time!

Graphics

It's obviously carbon every inch of the way, and good carbon to boot – so who need graphics. It's surely one of the tastiest looking boards on the market, so why go overboard with the graphics?! Nuff said.

kitesurf Verdict

→ The Raptor is super comfy as well as being a balls-to-the wall freestyle machine. It has that 'on rails' feel but is comfy in the lumps. If you're going to look that baddass then you need the moves to back it up – but the Raptor's there to give you all that you need to perform. **Tested AG**