

GREEN MEANY

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Full-body Raptor has become very popular since the concept was first discovered, but conventional wisdom has it that you can't apply stickers to the stuff. Conventional wisdom has a point, but would you believe what you're looking at here is actually painted on?

This is a benefit of using the pros: Raptor is available for DIY application, but as with everything it's all about the skill of the person doing the job. Paul at PB Customs says he developed the technique for doing this through an exhaustive programme of trial and error, and you've got to hand it to his team for the finish they've learned to achieve – the edges really are as crisp as they look here. The 'Green Meany' motif is also notable for the fact that it glows in the dark – once again, Paul developed a technique for this by experimenting with the paint he was mixing in to the tintable Raptor solution



driver, so I decided to really push things and go for a big lift, big tyres and Air-Lockers, plus of course things like new bumpers and so on.' Work was still busy, and so was family life, so rather than bashing the spanners himself he decided to turn to the pros – and having asked fellow members of the Jeep Owners Club for recommendations, he was left in no doubt as to who he should call.

'I knew from the minute I started to speak with Paul that he knew his stuff. And with a couple of vehicles already in his workshop for overland preparation, I could see immediately that the quality of his work was second to none.

'So we came up with a plan based on what I wanted out of the Jeep and what use it would be put to. Paul made some suggestions and recommendations then simply got on with the job of making my Jeep what it is today. I couldn't have asked for a better standard of service – he's now very much a favourite among club members wanting the job done right on their Jeeps.'

Testament to that is that fact that once the initial build was complete, Chris kept on bringing the Wrangler back to PB Customs for maintenance and repair work – as well of course as further mods. All of which led to the day when the idea of a full Raptor body treatment came up.

## From truck-bed protector to fashion item: the rise and rise of Raptor



Northamptonshire-based U-Pol is a true British success story. Established in 1948, the company makes a wide range of coatings, fillers, adhesives, sealants and polishes, exporting them all around the world from its home in Wellingborough.

It's Raptor, however, that U-Pol is best known for among off-roaders. This was originally conceived as a bedliner for pick-up trucks, but its enormous flexibility has seen it used for just about every kind of vehicle protection purpose you can think of. And with the advent of Raptor Tintable, it can be applied in any colour you want – opening up a world of possibilities for 4x4 owners wanting to create trucks that are eye-catching... and hard as nails.

Raptor is a two-pack product which gives the substrate a polyurethane coating that's waterproof, flexible and strongly resistant to cuts and abrasions. It resists attack by chemical substances like fuels, hydraulic oils, salt water and even animal urine, too, and the extra weight it adds can have a useful sound-deadening effect.

We'd never go as far as to say a product could make your vehicle completely scratch-proof. But having seen this stuff in action, we'd say it's as close as you can get. And as the Jeep in this article demonstrates, it's capable of making vehicles look the absolute business, too.

You can get Raptor for DIY applications from outlets like Britpart and Milner Off-Road, and it's very good value for money. If you want the sort of finish you see on these pages, however, paying a professional outfit like PB Customs to apply it for you will be money well spent. Either way, you can learn more about Raptor at [www.u-pol.com](http://www.u-pol.com).

