

Chris Murphy



Chris Murphy with his son Ben on holiday at Universal Studios in Florida, needing to sit down after a particularly hair-raising bone-shaking theme park ride

Technical manager, UltraFloor and UltraTile

■ **Did you get into trouble at school?** I am just old enough to remember 'the cane' and met with it on several occasions in junior school. Can't remember what for but it was obviously never my fault.

■ **What was your first part-time job?** At 13 shared a paper round with a mate – we also shared the delivery bike.

■ **What did you spend your first pay cheque on?** Most went on paying people back for money borrowed, but still had enough to celebrate with a few drinks.

■ **What was your first full-time job?** Lab technician working on animal and vegetable oils for a Liverpool firm. Smelly business!

■ **What was the best piece of advice you have been given?** Choose a business you enjoy, you may have to live with it forever.

■ **What was your worst business mistake?** Made many errors along the way that I could put down to learning, but nothing fortunately that has had a major impact on any business.

■ **What was your greatest business achievement?** I have been lucky to have been involved in many great things in my career and travelled to many places, but I hope my greatest achievement is yet to come.

■ **What car do you drive today and what does it say about you?** I don't get excited about cars. Driving a Volkswagen Passat should say... reliable and efficient.

■ **If you could have invented any product what would it have been?** The computer or the internet... what would we do without them?

■ **What do you most like about the flooring industry?** The interesting characters and the fact it always throws up new challenges.

■ **What do you least like about the industry?** Poor site conditions flooring contractors are often expected to work with – really pushes products to the limit.

■ **Name one change you would make to the industry.** A wider spread commitment to training.

■ **Which company in the flooring industry, other than your own, do you admire?** F. Ball. Good products well specified and well supported. A strong, well-established and professional organisation.

■ **Where should we have a flooring show?** Iceland. Always wanted to go there... sorry.

■ **Do you have any pets?** No, but I'm currently under pressure to get a dog.

■ **Do you have any hobbies?** No hobbies as such, but many interests mainly based around family activities, a devoted Everton supporter and until recently, active with my youngest sons junior football team.

■ **Which single possession would you rescue if your house caught fire?** The family photo collection.

■ **How do you relax?** If you ask my wife, she would say I never relax, I'm always pottering around. However I do enjoy eating out with friends and family or just odd jobs around the home & garden.

■ **What is your favourite tippie?** Real ale, red wine and single malt whiskey... oh and most other things alcoholic.

■ **How many times a year do you take a holiday and what is your favourite destination?** Generally we have two weeks in the summer (favour America), and a week in autumn or spring in Scotland (beautiful place to chill out).

■ **What is your idea of heaven?** Spending time with family and friends enjoying a meal and a few drinks.

■ **What is your idea of hell?** Apart from Everton getting beaten, I would say sunbathing covered in sun cream and karaoke's come high on the list.

■ **Which one record and book would you take to a desert island?** *Hotel California* by The Eagles and a good autobiography, probably *Mind over Matter* by Ranulph Fiennes.

■ **Who would you like to be stuck in a lift with?** Houdini.

■ **If you could be anyone (living or dead, fictional or real) who would it be?** Wouldn't mind being Roman Abramovich for a couple of days.

■ **Choose five words that describe yourself.** Motivated, loyal, trustworthy, practical and approachable.

■ **Do you have any regrets?** There are always things that in hindsight you could have done better, but in general my philosophy is never to dwell on the past and always look to the future. So no.

■ **Do you have any unfulfilled ambitions?** To remain happy in what I do for as long as I can do it. Oh and to take my wife back to the Norwegian fjords to recapture the photos she accidentally wiped off our camera.

■ **What was your most embarrassing moment?** As a new employee being asked to sing 'New York New York' at a company Christmas party while sober, on stage with my new MD.

■ **If you had to choose another career what would it be?** Civil engineer or building designer. **CFJ**

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