



Cadix Kattendijkdok - Antwerpen - 2021







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The inner and outer panel are connected with specially designed plastic fibre-reinforced connectors. Those connections are not subjected to corrosion and don't create thermal bridges.

Furthermore, their load resistance is very similar to that of prefabricated concrete so they do not reduce the strength of the construction. The type and thickness of the insulation material are determined by the required R or U value.



The insulation material is pre-cut in the factory with the 'Iso-matic' robot. Every shape or dimension can be created with the highest precision, even with (round) openings or organic forms. The space in between the interior and exterior panels is filled on site with concrete. This results in a massive interior concrete core, perfectly connected to the foundation and the walls and slabs underneath the Comfort Wall.

A broad spectrum of applications

The Kerkstoel Comfort Walls can be applied in multiple building types: offices, schools, hospitals, industrial and agricultural buildings and housing projects. The walls are used on the inside and outside for acoustical and thermal insulation of e.g. basements, staircases or for the construction of fire walls. **Kerkstoel2000+** wants to create additional value with smart innovation and its prefabricated products. By developing Comfort Walls, Kerkstoel wants to offer a solution to the demand for ecological and sustainable buildings and answer to the needs of the construction industry: freedom of design combined with a fast and high quality construction method.



In addition to the many advantages of the regular prefabricated double walls, the strengths of Comfort Walls are:

- Guaranteed quality of the insulation, placed in the factory
- A minimal amount of waste on site
- Less labour-intensive and safer
- Resistant to corrosion
- Facing in smooth industrial concrete, suited for spray plaster
- Possibility of slender constructions
- Mass law (acoustics) apply to double walls: High acoustic performance when combined to floating floors
- Structural, thermal insulation and acoustic requirements are satisfied in one element.

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The acoustic insulation capacity of walls is based on the mass law, one of the major principles in building acoustics. The acoustic insulation of a wall improves with its mass.

Tests at the BBRI lab for acoustics in Limelette, Belgium have shown that the mass law is still valid for prefabricated insulated concrete walls. An airborne sound insulation value Rw (C; Ctr) of 56,7 (-2; -4) dB has been measured on a wall of 22cm thickness.





Kerkstoel Comfort walls are the result of intensive research and development. Their design has been perfected over the years. The standard properties are listed below.

Other dimensions and qualities are possible on demand.

External floating panel?

In its basic execution form, the external panel of the Comfort walls is supported by the foundation or structure underneath. It is also possible to build with a 'floating' outside panel that does not have to be supported. After an in-depth study of the project, special connectors will be provided to guarantee the stability of the walls.

Insulation

Basically, every type of insulation material can be used as long as it is compatible with concrete.

	EPS200	IKO Enertherm PIR	Kingspan Kooltherm K20
Thermal conductivity (W/mK)	0,034	0,022	0,002
Fire resistant	neen	neen	ja
Absorbing humidity	neen	ja	ja
Available thickness [mm]	40-200	40-200	40-200
U-value in Comfort walls [W/m²K]	0,69 - 0,17	0,48 - 0,11	0,44 – 0,10

The table below determines the insulation thickness necessary to attain a certain U-value.

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1. Insulation th	ickness d	_{iso} require	d in a 36	cm wall	
		U-value of	Comfort wo	all (W/m²K)	
	0,24	0,20	0,18	0,16	0,14
Insulation λ 0,034	14	16			
Insulation λ 0,02	8	10		12	14

2. Insulation thickness $d_{_{\rm iso}}$ required in a 40 cm wall

	U-value of Comfort wall (W/m²K)							
	0,24	0,20	0,18	0,16	0,14	0,12	0,11	
Insulation λ 0,034	14	16	18					
Insulation λ 0,02	8	10	(11)	12	14	16	18	

3. U-value of Comfort wall W/m²K

	Thickness of insulation (cm)								
Wall thickness (cm)	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
30	0,45	0,30	0,23						
36	0,45	0,30	0,23	0,19	0,16	0,14			
40	0,44	0,30	0,23	0,19	0,16	0,14	0,13	0,11	
45	0,44	0,30	0,23	0,19	0,16	0,14	0,13	0,11	0,10



Comfort walls consist of

- (1) an exterior skin in reinforced concrete
- (2) a layer of insulation material
- (3) a void, to be cast on site with concrete
- (4) an interior skin in reinforced concrete





Brandwerendheid

Fire resistance requirements are becoming much more important in the design of a building. In the British Building Regulations (approved document B) the minimal requirements for different building types are specified.

By dividing the building in different compartments (spaces in the building protected ny other spaces with fire walls) fire spread can be prevented through the rest of the building.

Tests carried out by specialists have shown that fire walls can be executed with Kerkstoel Comfort walls to meet the requirements for compartementation.

Transport and manipulation

Please take into account following guidelines to prevent the Comfort walls from being damaged:

- The Comfort Walls have to be transported and stored vertically
- Always make sure that the chains or cables are sufficiently long to guarantee an angle of 60 °. Always pick up the element vertically and level.



Pouring the concrete

- Finish the joints as follows:
 - Horizontal joints must be propped up and formed if necessary.
 - Vertical joints must be formed if the joint is larger than 1 cm. To do this, use assembly foam.
- Reinforce corners using angle bars or wooden planks. Props can be used for T-joints.
- It is possible to place the wide slab before the walls are concreted. To do this, the walls must be assembled on a mortar bed or sufficiently wedged. The inner surface of the walls must be moistened before pouring the concrete.

Preparatory measures

Observe the applicable regulations when pouring (pressure, speed, professional vibrating, etc.):

- The permissible concrete pressure must not exceed 30 kN/m2.
- We advise you to vibrate for 60 % of the filling time.





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References



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Energy requirements become stricter and building in an energy-efficient way is the future. Kerkstoel Comfort Walls are the answer to the problem.

Why? Because Comfort Walls combine multiple benefits in one prefabricated element: Load resistance, durability, thermal inertia, plus thermal and acoustic insulation.

Insulation and construction stability combined.

