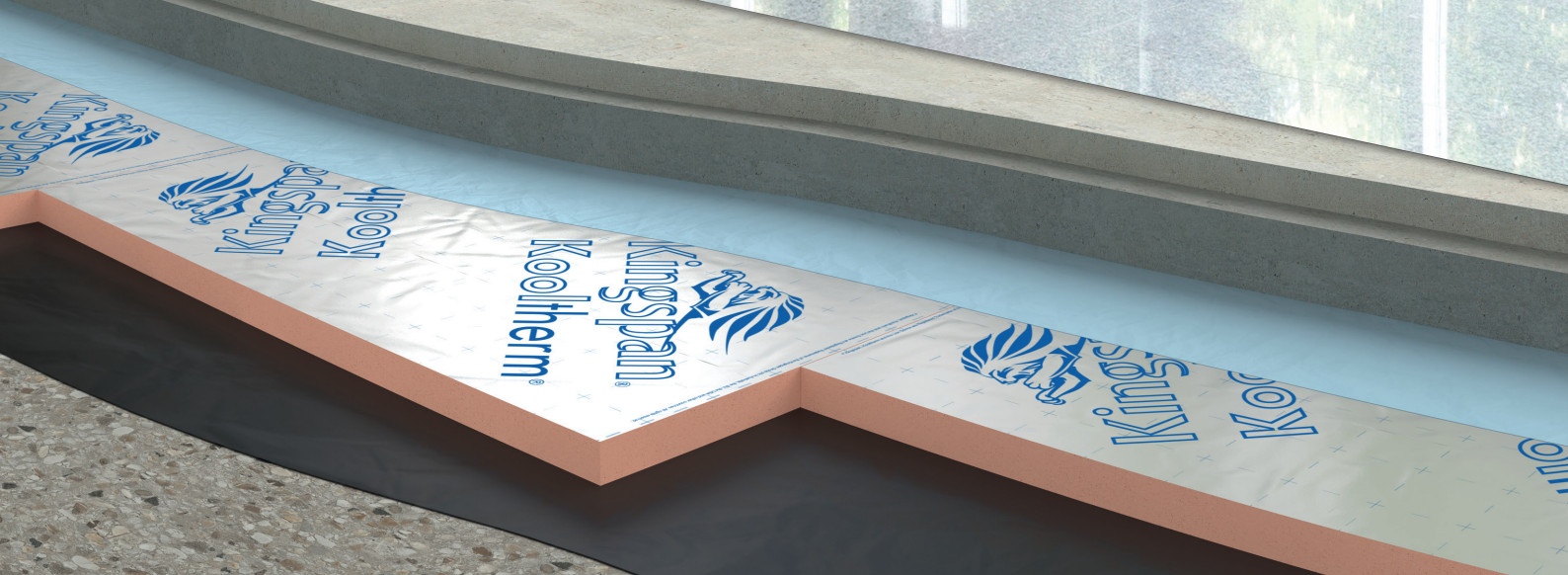


Insulation
Ireland

Fourteenth Issue | 07/2025

Kooltherm® K3 Floorboard

Insulation for floors



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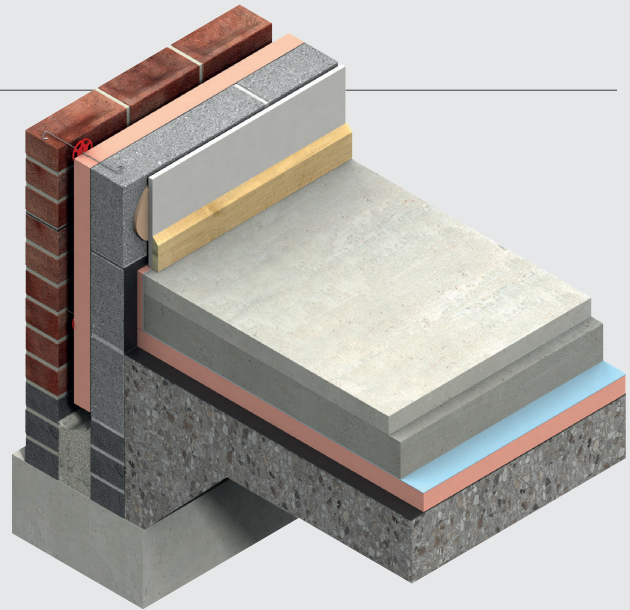
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Introduction

- Premium performance rigid thermoset insulation - thermal conductivities as low as 0.021 W/mK
- Unaffected by air infiltration
- Resistant to the passage of water vapour
- Easy to handle and install compared to some other commonly used insulants
- Ideal for new build and refurbishment



Visit our **free online U-value calculator**.
Offering free, quick and easy calculations
for wall, floor and roof constructions.



Useful links

Website

[Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 webpage](#)

Declaration of Performance (DoP)

[Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 Declaration of Performance](#)

Safety information

[Kingspan Kooltherm® product safety information](#)

Product details

The facings

Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 is faced on both sides with a low emissivity composite foil facing, autohesively bonded to the insulation core during manufacture.

The core

The core of Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 is a premium performance fibre-free rigid thermoset phenolic insulant.

Standards & approvals

Kingspan Kooltherm K3 is manufactured under a management system certified to ISO 9001: 2015 (Quality management systems), ISO 14001: 2015 (Environmental management systems), ISO 37301: 2021 (Compliance management systems), ISO 45001: 2018 (Occupational health and safety management systems) and ISO 50001: 2018 (Energy management systems).

The current manufactured thickness range of Kingspan Kooltherm® K3, produced at Kingspan Insulation's Castleblayney manufacturing facility, is covered by NSAI Agrément Certificate 09/0329.



Standard dimensions

Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 is available in the following standard size(s):

Nominal dimension		Availability
Length	(mm)	2400
Width	(mm)	1200
Insulant thickness	(mm)	Refer to local distributor or Kingspan Insulation for current stock and non-stock sizes.

Compressive strength

The declared compressive strength of Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 is 100 kPa, when tested to EN 826: 2013 (Thermal insulating products for building applications. Determination of compression behaviour).

Durability

If correctly installed, Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 can have an indefinite life. Its durability depends on the supporting structure and the conditions of its use.

Resistance to solvents, fungi & rodents

The insulation core is resistant to short-term contact with petrol and with most dilute acids, alkalis and mineral oils. However, it is recommended that any spills be cleaned off fully before the boards are installed. Ensure that safe methods of cleaning are used, as recommended by the suppliers of the spilt liquid. The insulation core is not resistant to some solvent-based adhesive systems, particularly those containing methyl ethyl ketone. Adhesives containing such solvents should not be used in association with this product. Damaged boards or boards that have been in contact with harsh solvents or acids should not be used.

The insulation core and facings used in the manufacture of Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 resist attack by mould and microbial growth, and do not provide any food value to vermin.

Product details

Fire performance

Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 achieves European Classification Euroclass F when classified to EN 13501-1: 2018 (Fire classification of construction products and building elements. Classification using data from reaction to fire tests).

Details on the fire performance of Kingspan Insulation products may be obtained from the Kingspan Insulation department at technical@kingspaninsulation.ie.

Thermal properties

The λ -values and R-values detailed below are quoted in accordance with EN 13166: 2012 + A2: 2016 (Thermal insulation products for buildings. Factory made phenolic foam (PF) products. Specification).

Thermal conductivity

The boards achieve a thermal conductivity (λ -value) of:

0.022 W/mK (insulant thickness 25 - 44 mm)

0.021 W/mK (insulant thickness 45 - 150 mm).

Thermal resistance

Thermal resistance (R-value) varies with thickness and is calculated by dividing the thickness of the board (expressed in metres) by its thermal conductivity. The resulting number is rounded down to the nearest 0.05 (m²K/W).

Insulant Thickness (mm)	Thermal Resistance (m ² K/W)
25	1.10
30	1.35
40	1.80
50	2.35
60	2.85
70	3.30
80	3.80
90	4.25
100	4.75
110	5.20
120	5.70
130	6.15
135	6.40
140	6.65
150	7.10

Typical constructions & U-values

Assumptions

The U-values in the tables that follow have been calculated using the method detailed in EN ISO 13370: 2017 (Thermal performance of buildings. Heat transfer via the ground. Calculation methods). They are valid for the constructions shown in the details immediately above each table.

Unlike roofs, walls and intermediate floors, U-value calculations for ground floors cannot be calculated with reference to the construction detail alone. Heat loss from ground floors depends upon the ratio of the exposed floor perimeter to the total floor area, the thickness of any basement wall and the depth of any basement.

Floor dimensions should be measured between the finished internal surfaces of the external walls. Non-usable heated space such as ducts and stairwells should be included when determining the area of the floor. Unheated spaces outside of the insulated fabric, such as attached garages or porches, should be excluded when determining the area of the floor, but the length of the wall between the heated building and the unheated space should be included when determining the perimeter. The floor dimensions of semi-detached, terraced or other joined premises / dwellings can be taken either as those of the premises / dwelling itself or those of the whole building. Where extensions to existing buildings are under consideration, the floor dimensions should be taken as those of the extension.

If the P/A ratio lies between two of the numbers shown in the tables that follow, for a safe estimate, please use the P/A ratio shown that is the next highest i.e. for 0.57 use 0.6.

For buildings with relatively small ground floor areas (primarily domestic properties), if the ground floor is left uninsulated, the thermal performance will be poor. To enhance the thermal performance, complete insulation of the ground floor should be adopted (Figures 1 & 5).

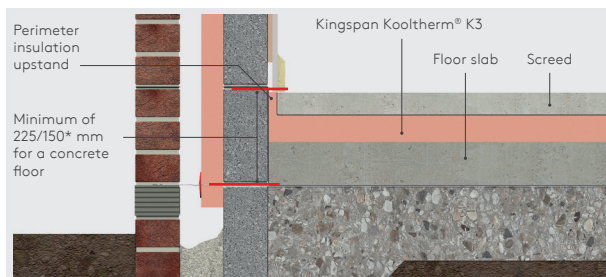


Figure 1: Complete masonry floor insulation

For buildings with large ground floor areas (primarily non-domestic properties), complete insulation of the ground floor may be unnecessary. Insulating the perimeter may provide adequate thermal performance (Figure 2). For further advice on the width of the perimeter insulation please consult Kingspan Insulation's Technical Service Department (see rear cover for details).

Calculations in the tables that follow assume complete insulation of the floor area, please consult Kingspan Insulation's Technical Service Department for calculations with perimeter strip insulation only.

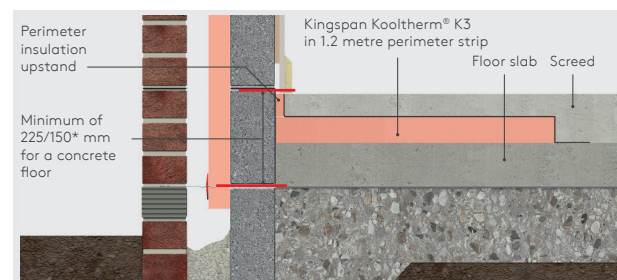


Figure 2: Perimeter strip masonry floor insulation

NB The figures quoted are for guidance only. A detailed U-value calculation should be completed for each project.

NB For the purposes of these calculations, using the method as detailed in EN ISO 13370: 2017, the soil has been assumed to be sand or gravel, the wall insulation is assumed to overlap the floor insulation by minimum 225 / 150* mm for a concrete floor and 200 mm for a timber floor, and the standard of workmanship has been assumed good, and therefore the correction factor for air gaps has been ignored.

NB If your construction is different from those specified, and / or to gain a comprehensive U-value calculation for your project, please consult the Kingspan Insulation Technical Service Department for assistance.

* 225 mm applies to the Republic of Ireland and 150 mm applies to NI.

U-value Table Key

Where an **X** is shown, the U-value is higher than the worst of the maximum new build area weighted average U-values allowed by the:

- Technical Guidance Document L (Dwellings) and Technical Guidance Document L (Buildings other than Dwellings) to the Building Regulations for Ireland
- Technical Booklets F1 & F2 to the Building Regulations for Northern Ireland.

Design considerations

Heat loss and linear thermal bridging

Basic principles

Linear thermal bridging describes the heat losses that occur at junctions between elements, which is additional to the losses occurring through roofs, walls and floors. This heat loss is represented by the junction's psi (Ψ) value. The lower the Ψ -value, the better the performance of a junction detail. The Ψ -values and lengths of linear thermal bridges are accounted for in whole building energy and carbon dioxide emissions calculations.

In a typical wall-to-ground floor junction the heat will flow through the easiest path, for example in a masonry cavity wall the linear thermal bridge is primarily the inner leaf of masonry and in a timber frame wall the linear thermal bridge is primarily the sole plate and the construction below it. These linear thermal bridges can be reduced by increasing the distance that the heat has to travel.

Approved details, such as the Acceptable Construction Details (Republic of Ireland), can uplift performance to provide a clear starting point towards achieving compliance, but they are limited in scope and applicability. Where applicable, the principles in these details are also considered good practice for refurbishment. Existing building junction losses are not typically accounted for in whole building heat loss calculations and only the risks of surface condensation and mould growth are considered.

The greatest opportunity for mitigating the impact of linear thermal bridges can come from following accurately 'modelled' details that take into account the following design considerations.

Reducing linear thermal bridging

Detailing at junctions to minimise the effects of thermal bridging and the associated risk of condensation or mould growth is important and there are some simple design considerations that can be adopted to help mitigate the risks and to reduce heat losses.

- For retrofit or refurbishment of existing buildings using Kingspan Kooltherm® K3, achieving continuity of insulation is the best approach to limiting losses through the wall / floor junctions. If continuity between floor and wall insulation layers cannot be achieved, overlap of insulation layers and use of lower conductivity materials represents a good practice approach. However, where neither option is possible, the risk of surface condensation at the coldest points will require particular consideration in determining an appropriate approach. Details and designs should be considered in the context of the property, its construction, characteristics, condition and ventilation provisions.
- For new build applications, care is also required to ensure continuation of insulation wherever possible between the wall and floor for best thermal performance. Where this is not possible, the insulation should be overlapped and ideally, lower conductivity material introduced between.

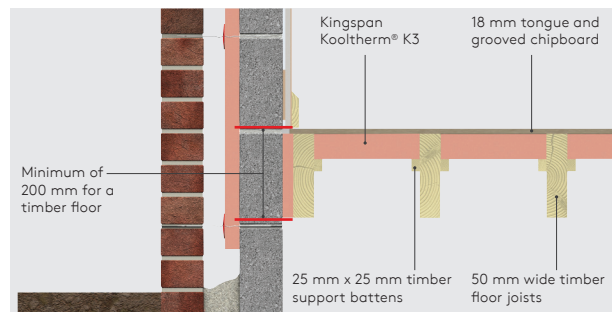


Figure 5: Complete timber floor insulation

- In order to minimise cold bridging at the edge of the floor, the distance between the top surface of the floor insulation or perimeter insulation upstand, and the bottom of the wall insulation must be a minimum of 225 / 150* mm (see Figures 1 & 2) for a concrete floor and 200 mm for a suspended timber floor (see Figure 5). The further down the wall insulation extends past the floor insulation, the better the thermal performance of the junction between the wall and the floor.
* 225 mm to the Republic of Ireland and 150 mm applies to NI.
- Perimeter upstand insulation helps to reduce heat losses from the junction between the floor and external walls. The upstand insulation helps to increase the distance that the heat has to travel in order to escape through the junction, which therefore helps to reduce heat loss. Omitting this, or using a poorer performing insulation, can increase these losses.
- Using better thermally performing 'lightweight' aggregate blockwork for the inner leaf of cavity walls in adjacency to the junction with the floor can assist with lowering heat losses from the junction.
- An internal lining of insulation on the warm side of the construction can help to reduce the heat losses through the junction. The internal lining could be a wall lining for the whole wall area, such as Kingspan Kooltherm® K18 Insulated Plasterboard, or could be localised insulation behind the plasterboard to help reduce a junction's losses (and losses from any timber soleplate).
- One of the best approaches to minimising cold bridging is to use external wall insulation, making the whole wall and any junctions warm, with suitable wall insulation at the junction with the ground floor extending past the level of the floor insulation below ground level.

For further advice on details to reduce linear thermal bridging please consult Kingspan Insulation's Technical Service Department (see rear cover for details).

Design considerations

Responsible sourcing

Responsible sourcing

Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 produced at Kingspan Insulation's Castleblayney manufacturing facility is certified to BES 6001 (Framework Standard for the Responsible Sourcing of Construction Products) 'Good'.



NB The above information is correct at the time of writing. Please visit the **Kingspan Insulation website** to download copies of certificates.

Specification clause

Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 should be described in specifications as:-

The floor insulation shall be Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 Floorboard ____ mm thick: comprising a premium performance fibre-free rigid thermoset phenolic insulation core faced on both sides with a composite foil facing. The product shall be manufactured under a management system certified to ISO 9001: 2015, ISO 14001: 2015, ISO 37301: 2021, ISO 45001: 2018 and ISO 50001: 2018; by Kingspan Insulation Limited; and installed in accordance with the instructions issued by them.

Design standards

Consideration should be given to the recommendations of BS 8102: 2009 (Code of practice for protection of buildings against water from the ground), BS 8215: 1991 (Code of practice for design and installation of damp proof courses in masonry construction), and the information given in Building Research Establishment Digest 104 (Floor Screeds).

Compressive loads

Un-reinforced floor screeds can be used in conjunction with Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 in most applications. The compressive strength of Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 offers considerable advantages over some other floor insulants. Providing a declared compressive strength of 100 kPa allows greater floor loads to be considered and therefore additional scope in the use of Kingspan Kooltherm® K3. However, where floor loads are to be excessive, consideration should be given to the use of Kingspan GreenGuard® which has greater compressive strength.

For further information please contact the Kingspan Insulation Technical Service Department (see rear cover).

Substrate

Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 is not recommended for use in direct contact with subsoil and must be used over a DPM.

Lightning protection

Building designers should give consideration to the requirements of EN 62305: 2011 (Protection against lightning).

Design considerations

Underfloor heating systems

The constructions shown in the 'Typical constructions and U-values' section can be readily converted to accommodate underfloor heating systems.

For a solid concrete floor, the position of the insulation is important in either exposing the thermal mass of the concrete floor to the heat provided by the system, or isolating the thermal mass from it.

For a 24 hour heating cycle, allowing the heat from the underfloor heating system to penetrate the concrete slab will provide a more even heating regime over a 24 hour period (Figure 6).

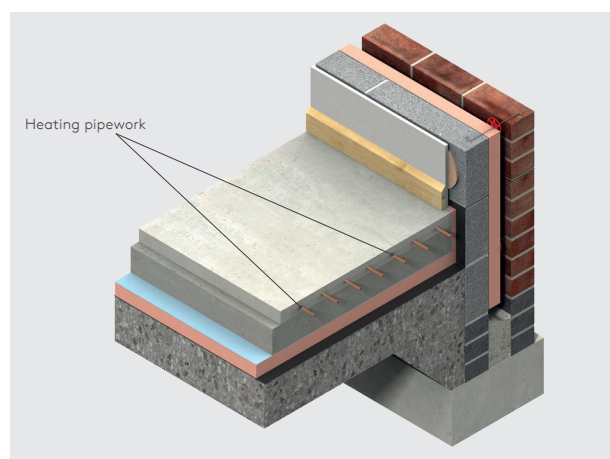


Figure 6: 24 hour heating application - below the floor slab

For intermittent heating applications, where a fast response time is required, it is beneficial to have less thermal mass available to take up heat from the system and so placing the insulation layer below the screed but above the concrete slab (Figure 7) or beam and block floor (Figure 8) is the best solution.

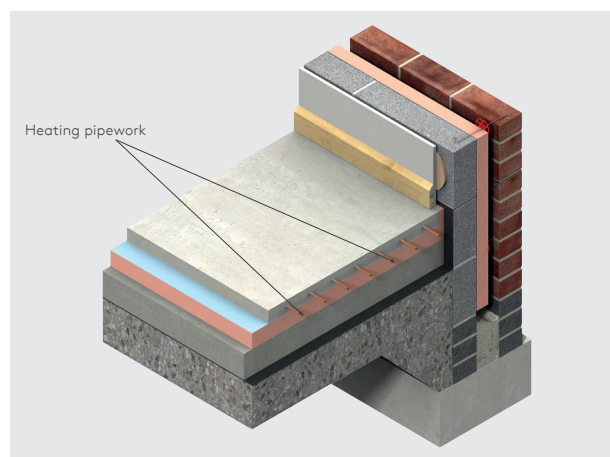


Figure 7: Intermittent heating applications - below the floor screed

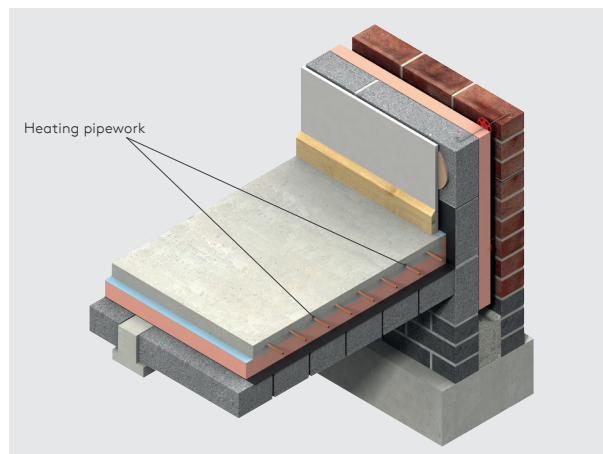


Figure 8: Intermittent heating applications - beam and block floor

Underfloor heating systems can also be accommodated in suspended timber floors. This arrangement has low thermal mass and so is more suited to intermittent heating applications (Figure 9).

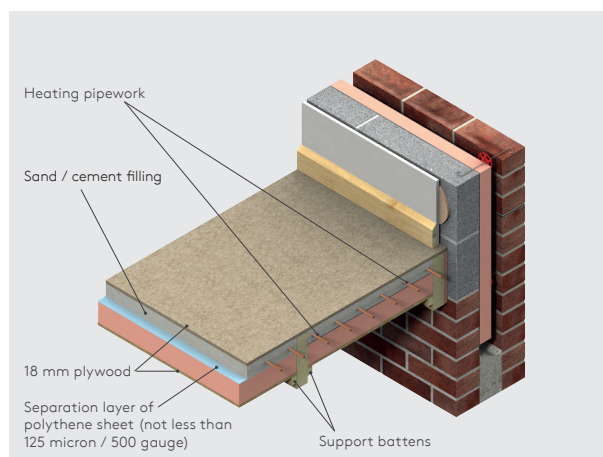


Figure 9: Intermittent heating applications - suspended timber floor

Sitework

Installation below a floor slab

- The site should be prepared and foundations, where appropriate, built to damp proof course (DPC) level.
- A thin sand blinding may be used to achieve a continuous level surface, free from projections, over rolled hardcore.
- The damp proof membrane (minimum 300 micron / 1200 gauge polythene) should be laid with joints well lapped and folded, to prevent the passage of ground water, over well compacted hardcore, prior to laying the insulation boards.
- The membrane should be brought up the surrounding foundation walls until it is sufficiently above the height of the wall DPC so that it will connect with or form the DPC.
- The insulation boards should always be loose-laid break-bonded, with joints lightly butted.
- If two layers of insulation are required, they should be horizontally offset relative to each other so that, as far as possible, the board joints in the two adjacent layers do not coincide with each other (see Figure 10).

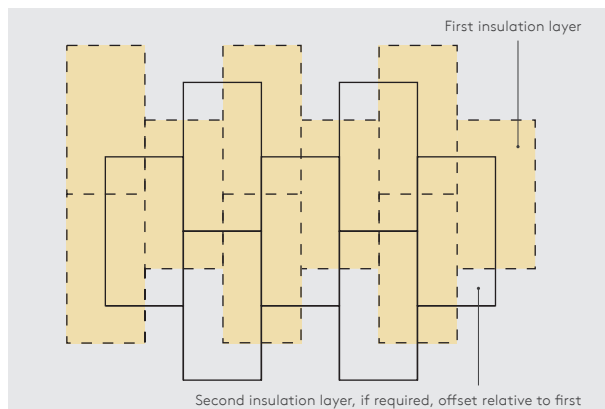


Figure 10: Offsetting of multiple insulation layers

- A strip of the insulation board to achieve the minimum thermal resistance as set out in the relevant ACDs should be placed vertically around the perimeter of the floor slab in order to prevent cold bridging. The top of the strip of insulation board should be level with the top of the floor screed and the bottom should be level with the bottom of the horizontal floor insulation, and be closely butted up to it.
- Insulation boards should be overlaid with a polythene sheet (not less than 125 micron / 500 gauge), to prevent the wet concrete penetrating the joints between the boards, and to act as a vapour control layer. Ensure the polythene sheet has 150 mm overlaps, taped at the joints, and is turned up 100 mm at the walls.
- The subsequent installation of the concrete slab and screed or other flooring material is carried out in a manner similar to that for an un-insulated floor. The concrete slab and screed should be allowed to dry out prior to the installation of the floor finish.

Installation below a floor screed

- Concrete slabs should be allowed to dry out fully prior to the installation of the insulation boards (average 1 day per mm of slab thickness).
- The surface of the slab should be smooth, flat and free from projections. Beam and block floors should be level and grouted. Rough cast slabs should be levelled using a thin sand blinding to ensure boards are continuously supported.
- The damp proof membrane (minimum 300 micron / 1200 gauge polythene) should be laid with joints well lapped and folded, to prevent the passage of ground water, over the concrete floor slab, or beam and block floor prior to laying the insulation boards.
- The membrane should be brought up the surrounding foundation walls until it is sufficiently above the height of the wall DPC so that it will connect with or form the DPC.
- The insulation boards should always be loose-laid break-bonded, with joints lightly butted.
- If two layers of insulation are required, they should be horizontally offset relative to each other so that, as far as possible, the board joints in the two adjacent layers do not coincide with each other (see Figure 10).
- A strip of the insulation board to achieve the minimum thermal resistance as set out in the relevant ACDs should be placed vertically around the perimeter of the floor slab in order to prevent cold bridging. The top of the strip of insulation board should be level with the top of the floor screed and the bottom should be level with the bottom of the horizontal floor insulation, and closely butted up to it.
- Insulation boards should be overlaid with a polythene sheet (not less than 125 micron / 500 gauge), to prevent the wet screed penetrating the joints between the boards, and to act as a vapour control layer. Ensure the polythene sheet has 150 mm overlaps, taped at the joints, and is turned up 100 mm at the walls.
- Use sand and cement screed laid to a minimum thickness of 65 mm for domestic construction and 75 mm elsewhere. Please refer to BS 8204 for guidance on screed specification and installation.

Installation in a suspended timber floor

Installation from above the floor joists

- The installation of Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 in suspended floor constructions should be carried out before commencement of floor boarding.
- The insulation boards should be cut to fit snugly between the floor joists. Measure the distance between the joists prior to cutting the boards as spacings can vary.
- In order to ensure insulation boards are flush with the top surface of the joists, they should be supported on minimum 25 mm x 25 mm treated softwood timber battens, proprietary galvanised steel saddle clips, or galvanised nails partially driven into the side of the joists.

Installation in a suspended timber floor

Installation from above the floor joists

- The installation of Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 in suspended floor constructions should be carried out before commencement of floor boarding.
- The insulation boards should be cut to fit snugly between the floor joists. Measure the distance between the joists prior to cutting the boards as spacings can vary.
- In order to ensure insulation boards are flush with the top surface of the joists, they should be supported on minimum 25 mm x 25 mm treated softwood timber battens, proprietary galvanised steel saddle clips, or galvanised nails partially driven into the side of the joists
- Battens / nails should be placed at an appropriate height to suit the thickness of board being fitted, and nails should remain 40 mm proud of the joist.
- The insulation boards should then be fitted between the joists so that they are supported by the battens / saddle clips or nails.
- If two layers of insulation are required, they should be horizontally offset relative to each other so that, as far as possible, the board joints in the two adjacent layers do not coincide with each other.
- All board joints should be lightly butted.
- Ensure that insulation boards are fitted tightly between joists, and any gaps are filled with expanding urethane sealant.
- Any narrow gaps between a joist and perimeter wall should be insulated by specially cut pieces of board which in turn should be supported on blocks nailed to the underside of the joists. Gaps less than 25 mm wide should be filled with expanding urethane sealant.
- Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 is not suitable for installation directly over timber joists.

Installation from below the floor joists

- Floor boards should be fixed over joists prior to fitting Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 from below.
- The insulation boards should be cut to fit snugly between the floor joists. Measure the distance between the joists prior to cutting the boards as spacings can vary.
- Push the cut insulation boards between the joists so they are flush with the underside of the floor boards.
- If two layers of insulation are required, they should be horizontally offset relative to each other so that, as far as possible, the board joints in the two adjacent layers do not coincide with each other.
- All board joints should be lightly butted.
- Ensure that insulation boards are fitted tightly between joists, and any gaps are filled with expanding urethane sealant.
- Side-nail 25 mm x 25 mm timber battens to the joists or partially drive galvanised nails into the side of the joists in the appropriate position to hold the boards in place.
- Any narrow gaps between a joist and perimeter wall should be insulated by specially cut pieces of board which in turn should be supported on blocks nailed to the underside of the joists. Gaps less than 25 mm wide should be filled with expanding urethane sealant.

Wheeled / foot traffic

- Ensure boards are protected during installation from wheeled / foot traffic by using scaffold planks or other protective measures.

Underfloor heating systems

- Please refer to the instructions of the specific underfloor heating system manufacturer.

Sitework

General

Cutting

- Cutting should be carried out either by using a fine toothed saw, or by scoring with a sharp knife, snapping the board over a straight edge and then cutting the facing on the other side.
- Ensure accurate trimming to achieve close-butting joints and continuity of insulation.

Daily working practice

- At the completion of each day's work, or whenever work is interrupted for extended periods of time, board edges and joints should be protected from inclement weather.

Availability

- Kingspan Kooltherm® K3 is available through specialist insulation distributors and selected builders' merchants throughout Ireland and Northern Ireland.

Packaging and storage

- The polyethylene packaging of Kingspan Insulation products, which is recyclable, should not be considered adequate for outdoor protection.
- Ideally, boards should be stored inside a building. If, however, outside storage cannot be avoided, then the boards should be stacked clear of the ground and covered with an opaque polythene sheet or weatherproof tarpaulin. Boards that have been allowed to get wet should not be used.

Health and safety

- Kingspan Insulation products are chemically inert.
- A Safety Information Data Sheet for this product is available from the Kingspan Insulation website www.kingspaninsulation.ie/safety.
- Do not stand on or otherwise support your weight on this product unless it is fully supported by a load bearing surface.

About Kingspan Insulation

Products & solutions

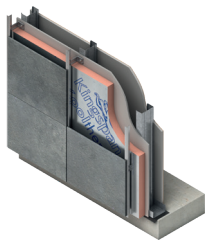
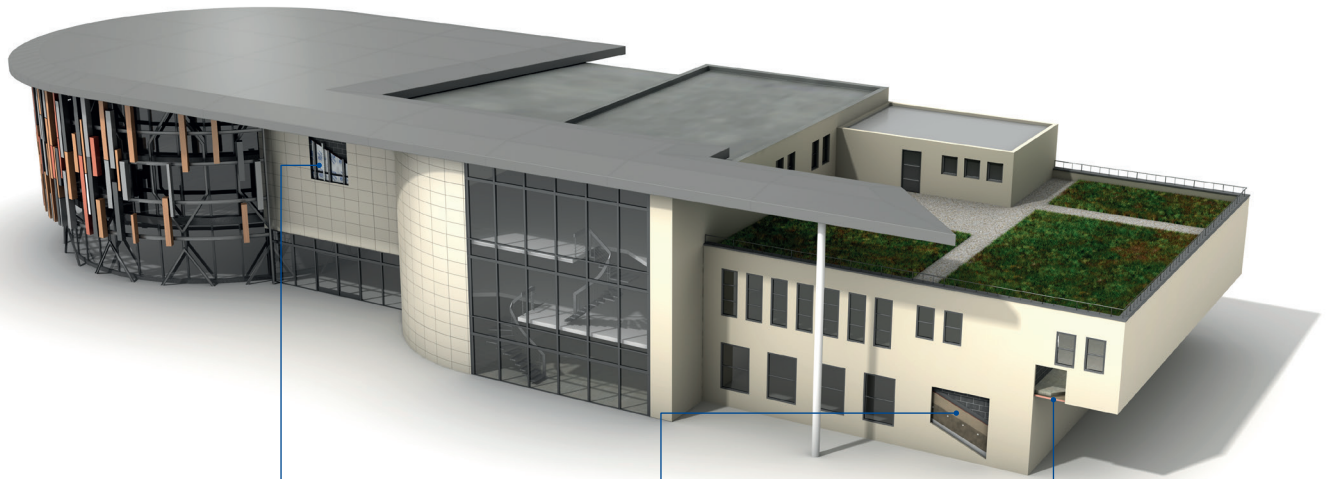
Rigid insulation products for building fabric applications, including roofs, walls and floors.

- Kingspan AlphaCore® – microporous silica-based insulation.
- Kingspan OPTIM-R® – vacuum insulation panel (VIP) systems.
- Kingspan Kooltherm® – phenolic insulation.
- Kingspan Therma™ – PIR insulation.
- K-Roc® – rock mineral fibre insulation.
- Kingspan GreenGuard® – extruded polystyrene insulation (XPS).
- Kingspan TEK® – structural insulated panels (SIPs).
- Cavity closers – PVC-U extrusions with an insulation core.
- Membranes – for pitched roofs and walls.

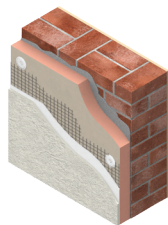


About Kingspan Insulation

Solutions available for roofs, walls and floors of commercial buildings, from schools to retail.



Insulation for use behind rainscreen or masonry façade systems



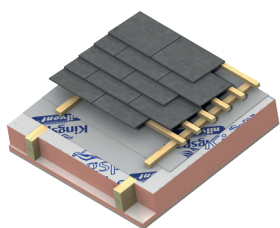
External insulation for masonry walls



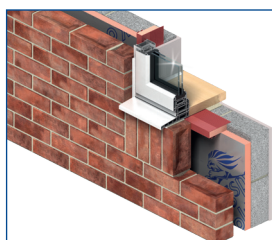
Insulation for structural ceilings (soffits)

About Kingspan Insulation

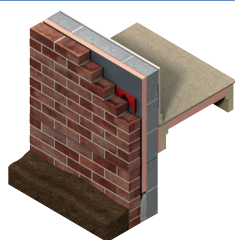
From new housing developments to refurbishing your home, we offer a number of different solutions for roof, wall and floor applications.



Insulation for tiled or slated pitched warm roof spaces

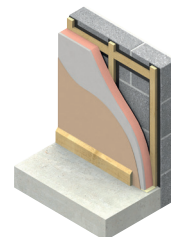


Insulated extrusions for closing wall cavities at openings

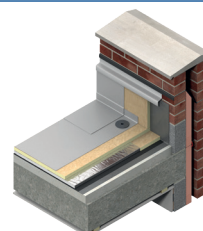


Full and partial fill cavity wall insulation

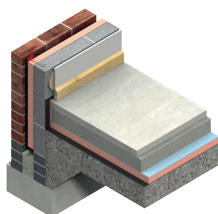




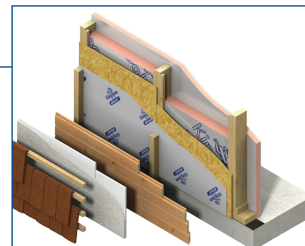
Insulation for tiled or slated pitched warm roof spaces



Insulation for flat roofs and terraces



Insulation for floors



Insulation for timber and steel framing systems

About Kingspan Insulation

Company details

Kingspan Insulation Ltd is part of the Kingspan Group plc., one of Europe's leading construction product manufacturers. The Kingspan Group was formed in the late 1960s and is a publicly quoted group of companies headquartered in Kingscourt, County Cavan, Ireland.



Kingspan Insulation Ltd is a leading manufacturer of rigid insulation products and insulated systems for building fabric and building services applications.

Our site in Castleblayney, Ireland, is accredited to the independent compliance standard ISO 37301: 2021.



Services

Our support services provide fast and accurate advice no matter what your role is. Visit our website to access the following services.

- U-value calculations – free, quick and easy U-value calculations with our U-value Calculator.
- Help and advice on your projects, including stockists, how to guides, regulatory guidance and e-learning.
- Dedicated Specification and Sales teams to support projects.
- Building Information Modelling (BIM) – download BIM objects for our products.
- Tapered roofing service – Kingspan Insulation's tapered roofing systems come with a supporting design service to ensure the most cost-effective solution for a roof is identified.



- CPDs – Kingspan Insulation offers a number of free CPD seminars for architects and specifiers covering a wide range of industry topics. CPDs can be booked or a range of courses can be found online.



Planet Passionate is our group wide global sustainability programme.

Our Planet Passionate programme aims to have a positive impact on three big global challenges: climate change, circularity and protection of our natural world.



Scan for our latest progress report to learn more about our targets, partnerships and global commitments.



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Visit our free online U-value calculator.
Offering free, quick and easy calculations
for wall, floor and roof constructions.



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