

## Why a cavity screen?

Tholen – Doek en Draad has recently been active in the United States and Canada under the name Screen4Seasons. The Dutch company is pioneering cavity screen installations—two cloths in a single installation. But what are the actual advantages of this?

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### What is it?

“A cavity screen installation consists of two screen cloths in one system. There is a small space between the cloths, creating a cavity. In that cavity, there is still air, which provides insulation.”

A double screen saves energy and has been a well-known concept in markets where greenhouse horticulture is common. However, for many growers, investing in a double screen is still a step too far. Reasons may include the higher investment costs, as well as practical installation challenges when applied in an existing greenhouse, especially if the current structure was not designed for a second screen.

Still, a Dutch cucumber grower took the step some time ago. His case was highlighted during the celebration of ten years of *Het Nieuwe Telen*. You can view the presentation from that study day at: [www.kasalsenergiebron.nl](http://www.kasalsenergiebron.nl)

“Recently, we also sold a cavity installation to a company in Bleiswijk, where we have already started working on it.”



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## **Energy saving**

One of the main reasons to install a cavity system—especially now during the energy crisis—is the significant energy savings it can provide.

“With a double screen, you can achieve additional energy savings without the disadvantages such as air movement between the cloths, which would otherwise require extra measures to deal with temperature differences. A new cavity screen makes this possible,” says the operations manager.

“In Bleiswijk, the greenhouse has an area of 7.2 hectares, and with the cavity screen they can save quite a bit of heat there—at least 15% on energy,” according to Gerdo.

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## **Installation**

Another reason is that the system is space-saving, since it combines two cloths in one installation instead of two separate systems. This also makes it cheaper to install.

“In some greenhouses, there isn’t enough space for two installations. In that case, this is a good alternative to still achieve energy savings.” Gerdo also notes that existing screen installations in greenhouses can be adapted to allow for a double screen.

Besides saving on the number of installations, another important aspect for Doek en Draad is installation speed. “We are constantly developing. If we think something can be improved, we adjust it. Installation speed is very important for the price—the faster the installation, the lower the cost for the customer. That is something we focus on a lot.”

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## **Screen4Seasons**

Doek en Draad is not only active in the Netherlands, but also in the United States and Canada, where interest in cavity screens has increased significantly. There, they operate under the name Screen4Seasons.

“We are doing our best there and are exploring opportunities to sell the cavity screen with Dutch partners. In any case, we are very pleased with the international attention for cavity screens.”



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