



While Chile might not be the largest or most populous nation in South America it can now boast something that makes it the envy of those in Brazil and Argentina – the Gran Torre Santiago, Latin America’s tallest skyscraper. Right in the heart of the Chilean capital, Santiago, Gran Torre Santiago is the centerpiece of the Costanera Center development and rises to a height of 300 m.

COSTANERA

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COSTANERA CENTER

Santiago de Chile, Chile

Consciously designed to become a new landmark building for Latin America, the Gran Torre Santiago is an outstanding piece of architecture and provides an impressive 107,125 m² of space over 63 floors.

Aside from making an economic and architectural statement, the Costanera Center was designed to make an environmental one too with the project consultants aiming for a prestigious gold rating under the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) classification system.

In addition to the striking Gran Torre Santiago, the Costanera Center also incorporates a large shopping mall, two hotels and two smaller towers that will surround the Gran Torre Santiago. Obviously, as with any development on this scale, air-conditioning was far too important to be a mere afterthought.

The air-conditioning consultants, CAD Ingeniería, knew the importance of thermally insulating the air-conditioning ductwork to protect against condensation and mould growth.

Because it has a closed cell structure that prevents the passage of water vapour and effectively resists moisture ingress, Kaiflex

is used around the world to stop condensation. By combining the benefits of a high quality manufacturing process together with the benefits of a high emissivity surface finish, Kaiflex reliably stops condensation without the need to rely on an external water vapour barrier.

Environmentally the LEED scheme places a heavy emphasis on maximising indoor air quality and minimising the instances of sick building syndrome. Dust and fibre free materials are favoured and credits can be awarded for the use of adhesives free from volatile organic chemicals (VOC's).

Kaiflex insulation is closed cell rubber foam – completely free from dust and fibres. Because Kaiflex is resistant to moisture ingress and prevents condensation it is inherently resistant to bacterial and mould growth. What's more, Kaimann can supply Kaiflex adhesive in a VOC free format, specifically formulated for use on LEED projects.

More than 5,500 m² of Kaiflex sheet and more than 20,000 m of Kaiflex tube has been installed onto the air-conditioning system throughout the Costanera Center by four separate contractors: M. Vidaurre y Cia., Fleischmann S.A, Termika S.A and

Matec S.A who have all benefited from the dust and fibre free nature of Kaiflex almost as much as those who will use the building every day! The dust and fibre free and flexible nature of Kaiflex, together with the ease in which the insulation is vapour sealed, played a major contributing role in ensuring that the project was finished quickly and professionally.

All of the Kaiflex insulation used on the Costanera Center was supplied by distributor Idapi Ltda who sells Kaimann products throughout Chile.