



# AIR CLEANING SYSTEMS PUT AN END TO FLOUR DUST



CUSTOMER

Verkade Cookie  
Factory



LOCATION

Zaandam (NL)



SECTOR

Industrial bakery



DUST  
REDUCTION

79 %

## AT A GLANCE

*“We’re so pleased about our partnership with Zehnder. Working conditions in the factory have improved significantly thanks to Zehnder’s air purifiers. And we are also saving time and costs on cleaning.”*

Arie Visser, Production Manager

### CHALLENGES

Verkade is one of the best-known brands in the Netherlands – a long-established business that’s been producing biscuits and chocolate since 1886. The company has a large bakery in Zaandam where flour dust used to be a constant problem, particularly in the flour sifting and dough preparation areas. The dust not only created an unhealthy working environment, but also resulted in significant cleaning costs. And despite huge investment in cleaning, the dust issue remained.

### ABOUT VERKADE

The family business Verkade started more than 100 years ago as a bread and rusks bakery on the banks of the river Zaan.

Over the years Verkade has become one of the most well-known brands in the Netherlands. In 1950 they had the privilege to add „Royal“ in front of the name, and in 2010 Verkade was selected Brand of the Year in the Netherlands. There are at present about 550 employees at the factory at Westzijde in Zaandam, 325 of these in the production. They manufacture a wide selection of cakes, macaroons, butter cookies and waffles.

### BENEFITS

After Zehnder installed its air cleaning units, the levels of flour dust in the factory fell by 79%. With the workplace now cleaner and healthier, the risk of baker’s asthma has been substantially reduced and employees say they feel much more comfortable. Verkade has also significantly cut the time and money it spends on cleaning. Last but not least the company says it loves the fact that the units are so easy to install – you simply plug them in and they are ready to go – and the cost of the system can be spread over several years.







## A happy production manager

Arie Visser is very happy with the new Zehnder air cleaner units.

The results are just as we expected, and this is confirmed by our own measurements. **The work conditions have improved considerably, and we need to clean much less nowadays.** The fact that the units are easy to install and that they do not require any extra piping or cables is also very good. In this way it was easy to install air cleaner units in the other departments as well”, says Arie Visser. He is happy with the cooperation with Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, and says that one of the advantages is that the costs for the entire life-time of the service agreement that Verkade signed with Zehnder is already known.

## Flour in the air you breathe, not very good for the work environment

“In a company such as our’s, dust has always been a problem”, says Arie Visser, production manager at Verkade. “We used to have a lot of dust in the buildings, mostly where we did dough preparation and the flour sifting. **It was not just an unhealthy work environment, the costs for cleaning were sky-high.** Even so, we could not control the dust. In other words, we needed a better way to handle the problem.

Such was the situation in 2007 when Dick Stoorvogel, seller at Zehnder Clean Air Solutions, paid us a visit and offered to measure the air and make a preliminary study.” Based on these measurements and a summary of all requirements, Verkade initially ordered seven air cleaner units of the E3000 model, with pre-filters and Flimmer filters that have a capacity of cleaning 3000 m<sup>3</sup> of air every hour. During 2008 - 2010 a further 18 units were ordered from Zehnder and today a total of 25 of these air cleaner units are used in the cookie factory.



