

## WHAT IS ASBESTOS?

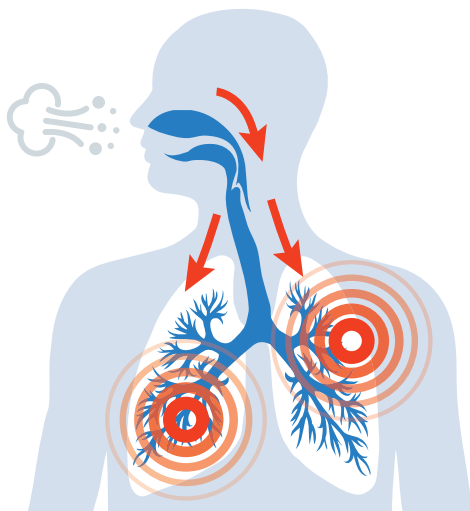
Asbestos is a group of naturally occurring minerals which have, among other traits, good thermal resistance, chemical stability and high tensile strength.

## WHAT WAS IT USED FOR?

It was once a popular component in construction materials. Due to its links to health problems such as lung cancer, its use in buildings was banned in Singapore in 1989, but many earlier structures still contain the substance.

## WHEN DOES IT BECOME A PROBLEM?

Structures containing asbestos pose no risk to humans if they are intact. However, when there is damage or disturbance – such as sawing and cutting – fibres may be released into the air and inhaled.



## WHAT DOES IT CAUSE?

Asbestos-related diseases include lung cancer or asbestosis, the progressive scarring of the lungs.