

Water Contamination

Spraying pesticide with a garden hose seems like a harmless practice. Usually it is; but if the City's water supply is interrupted while you are spraying, the pesticide could be sucked into your drinking water.

The water supply can be interrupted during a watermain break or when a watermain is shut off for a repair as illustrated below.

Cross Connections

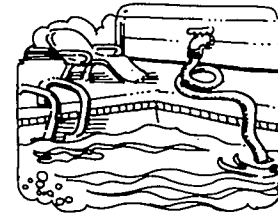
The direct link between a contaminant and your drinking water is called a cross connection. A pesticide sprayer is a good example because most cross connections are created by hoses.



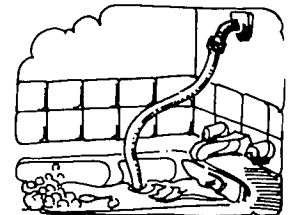
Protect Your Drinking Water

Only you can protect your drinking water from cross connections on your property. To eliminate or control cross connections, just follow these practises:

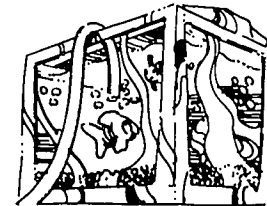
1. Never place the end of a hose where it can suck contaminants into your drinking water.



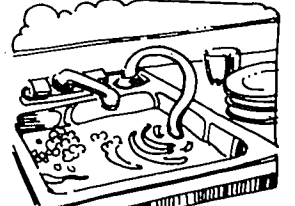
SWIMMING POOL



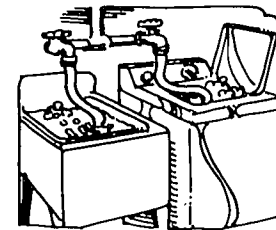
BATHTUB



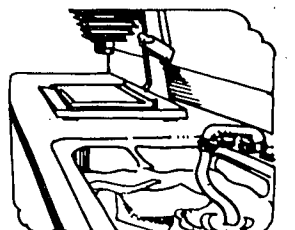
FISH TANK



SINK

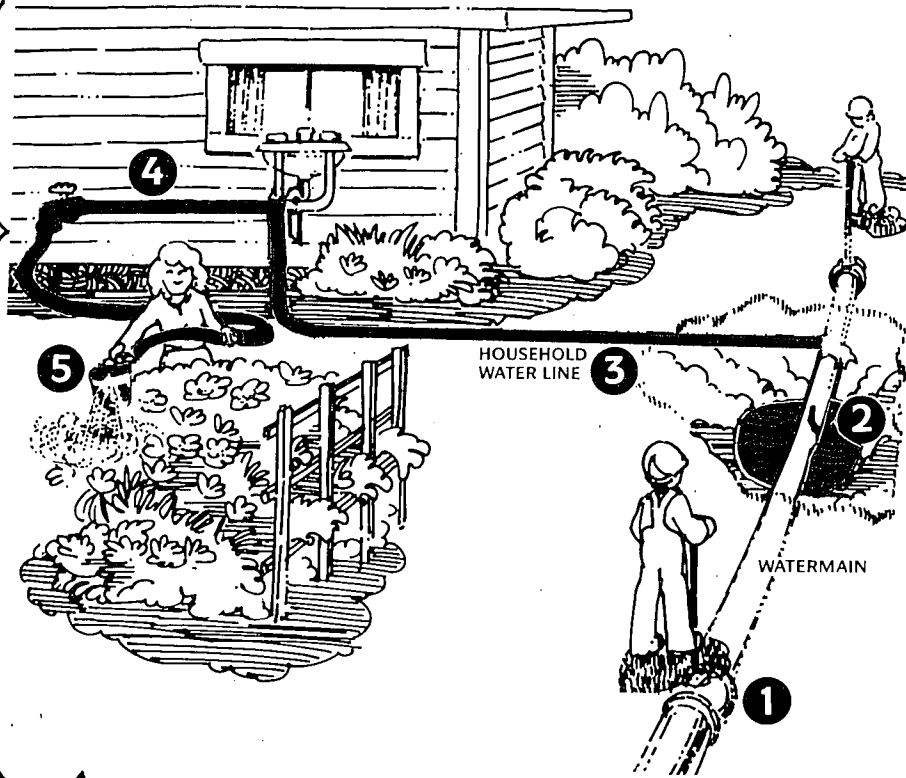


LAUNDRY TUB



DARKROOM TRAYS SINK

HOW CONTAMINATION CAN OCCUR

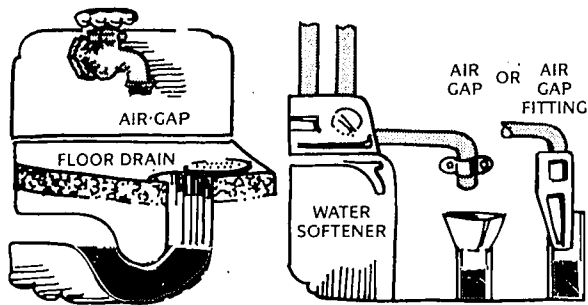


- 1 The watermain is shut off for a repair.
- 2 Water flows out a break or a crack in the watermain and into the soil.
- 3 The water in the household lines drains into the watermain, which is at a lower elevation.
- 4 A siphon is created by the water draining out of the household lines.
- 5 The pesticide in the sprayer is siphoned through the hose and into the household water lines. The pesticide can even enter the watermain, which services other houses.

The occasional drop in water pressure is unavoidable, so be sure to protect your drinking water.

If the City's water supply is interrupted while a tap in one of the above illustrations is open, contaminants could be sucked through the hose.

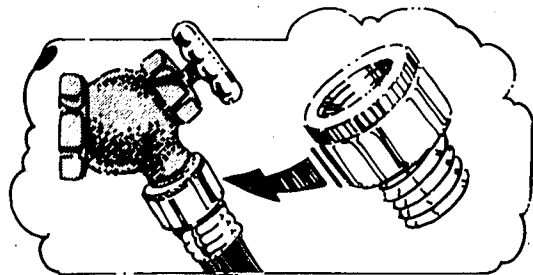
2. Leave at least a one-inch gap between the end of a hose and a source of contamination (flood level rim) to eliminate the link between the two.



You can use an air gap fitting for sewer stand pipes.

3. Attach a hose connection vacuum breaker to threaded taps.

A vacuum breaker is a mechanical device that prevents contaminated water from being siphoned through a hose.



A hose connection vacuum breaker on an outdoor tap can freeze and break, so prior to winter remember to turn off the tap's indoor valve and manually drain the vacuum breaker.

Boilers And Irrigation Systems

To protect your drinking water from cross connections with underground irrigation systems and boilers for heating homes, contact a qualified plumber for advice and assistance.

Responsibility

Safeguarding Newfoundland's drinking water is everyone's responsibility.

Information

For more information on how to protect your home or business from cross connections contact your local Environmental Health Specialist or the health unit in your area or your local municipal council.

Reprinted with permission of
The City of Calgary
Engineering Department



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
Department of Health



**Safe
Drinking
Water**

*... is everyone's
responsibility.*