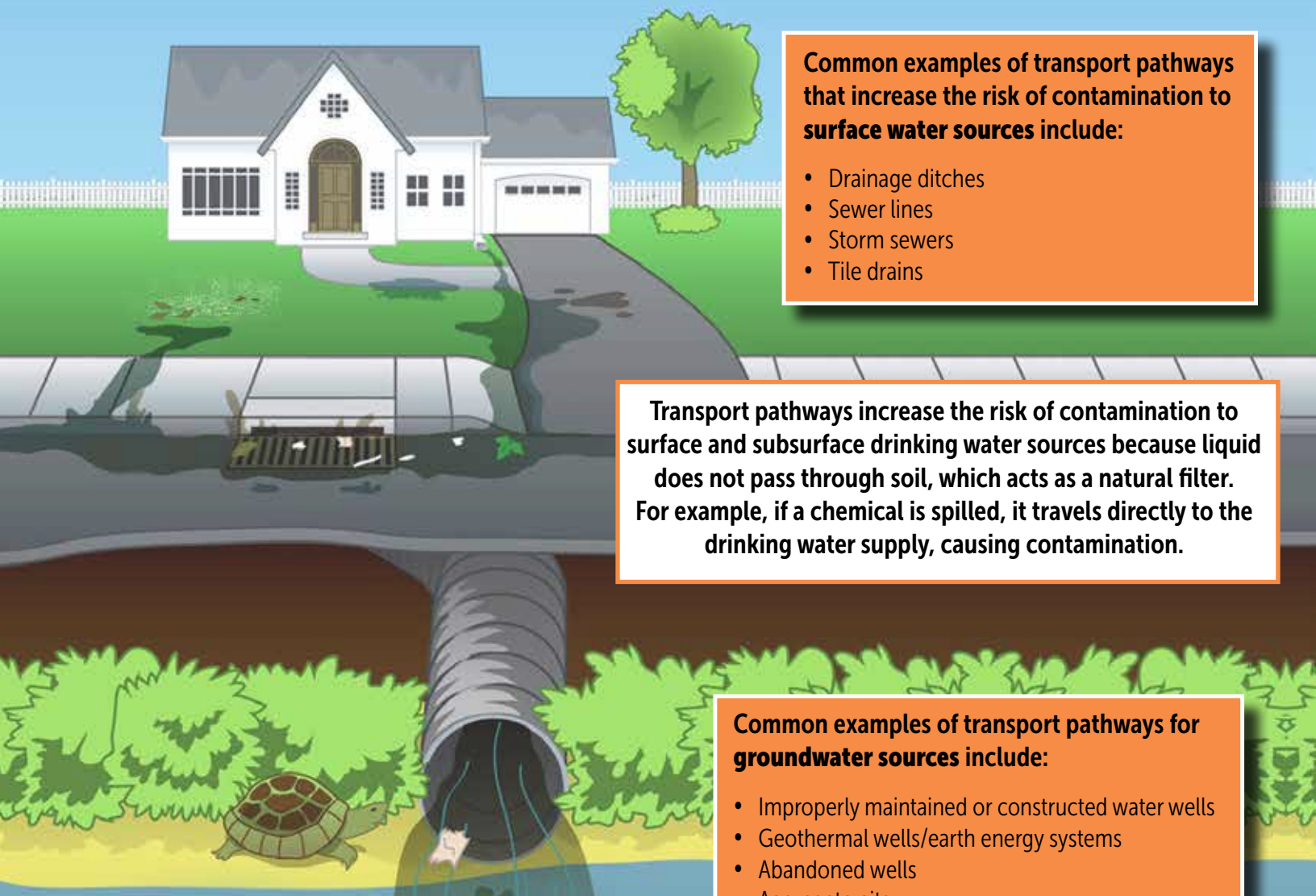
Transport Pathways and Source Water Protection

Transport pathways provide a direct path to drinking water sources. These pathways can disturb the surface about the aquifer and artificially enhance flow to an aquifer or groundwater supply source.



Common examples of transport pathways that increase the risk of contamination to surface water sources include:

- Drainage ditches
- Sewer lines
- Storm sewers
- Tile drains

Transport pathways increase the risk of contamination to surface and subsurface drinking water sources because liquid does not pass through soil, which acts as a natural filter. For example, if a chemical is spilled, it travels directly to the drinking water supply, causing contamination.

Common examples of transport pathways for groundwater sources include:

- Improperly maintained or constructed water wells
- Geothermal wells/earth energy systems
- Abandoned wells
- Aggregate pits
- Boreholes
- Deep excavations, such as trenching for sewer lines

Best management practices to minimize the potential impacts of transport pathways to the water supply include:

- Dispose of hazardous waste materials properly.
- Abandon water wells not being used or maintained for future use as a well.
- Inspect and maintain septic systems.
- Use best management practices when applying road salt.

Ontario Regulation 903 sets out the minimum provincial standards and legal requirements for siting, constructing, tagging, reporting, maintaining and decommissioning wells used for drinking water. All well owners are subject to Ontario Regulation 903.

The Regional Municipality of Durham, Works Department
If you require this information in an accessible format, please contact
905-668-7711 ext. 3488 **durham.ca/SWP**

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
ACT FOR CLEAN WATER