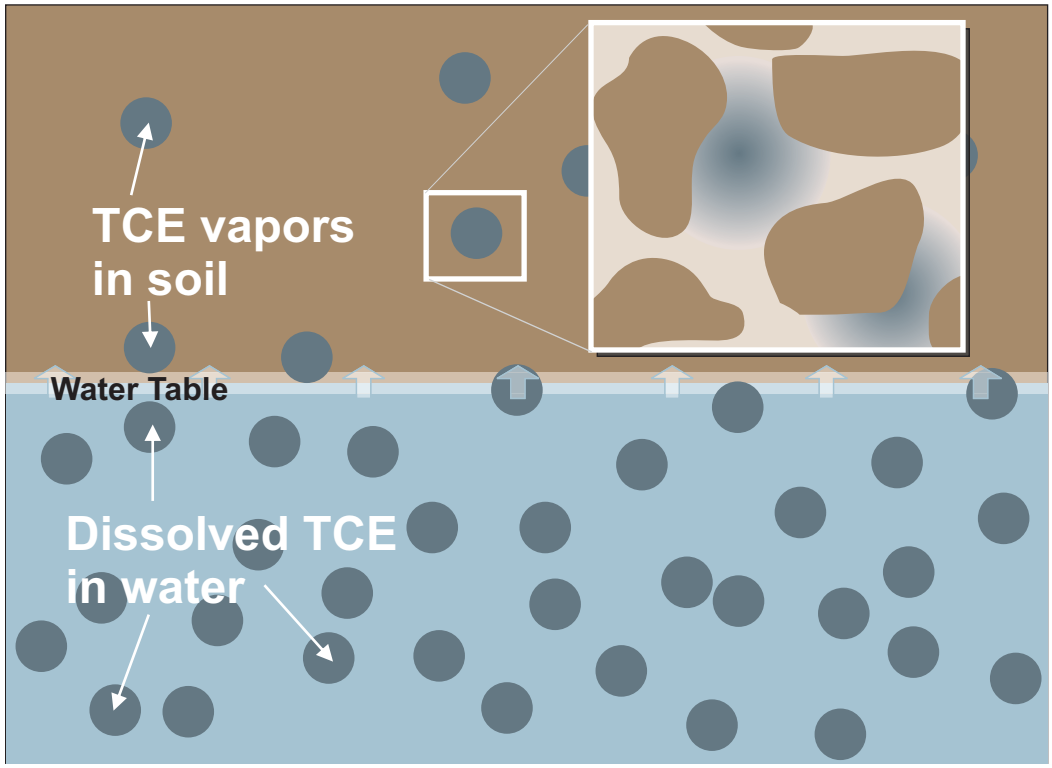
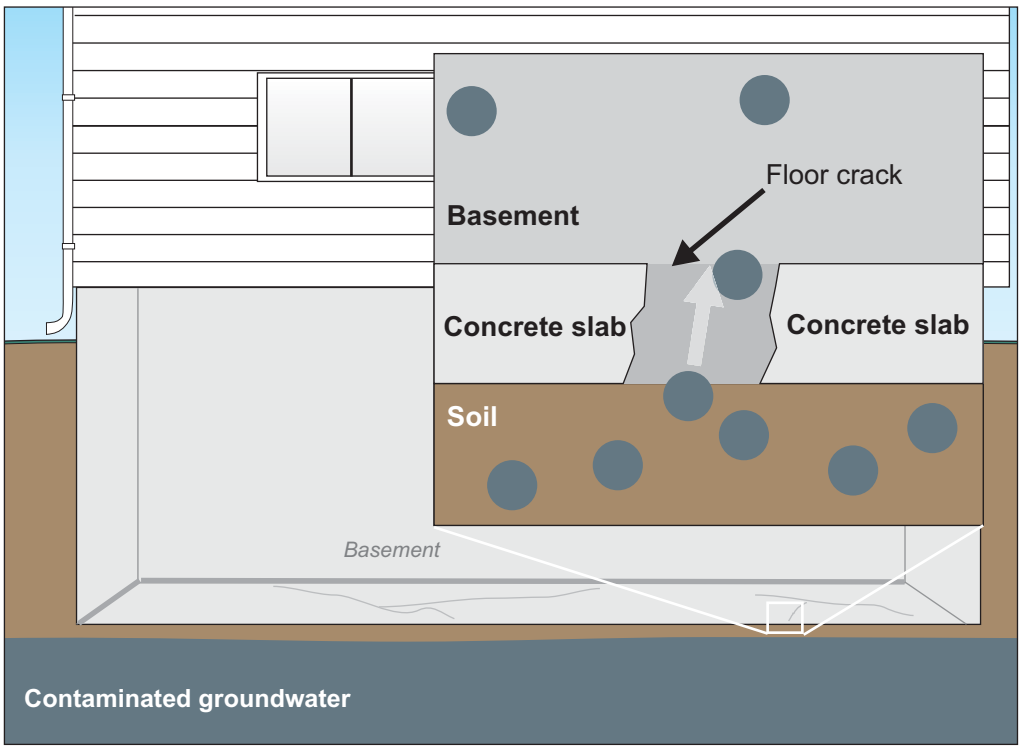
How chemical vapors get into homes

From water to soil



- Chemicals like TCE would rather be in the air than dissolved in water.
- Chemicals move from water to air at the water table.
- Dissolved chemicals evaporate out of the water and enter the air trapped in spaces between soil particles.
- Higher concentrations of chemicals at the water table means more vapors can enter the soil.
- Chemical vapors move more easily in sandy soils, less easily through clays and silts.

From soil into the home



- Chemical vapors can enter homes through cracks, gaps and holes in the foundation or basement floor.
- All basements have cracks.
- Furnaces can create negative pressure inside the home.
- The negative pressure created by the furnace can draw vapors into the home through the openings in the slab.
- Vapor levels are likely to be highest during the winter months when the furnace is running.