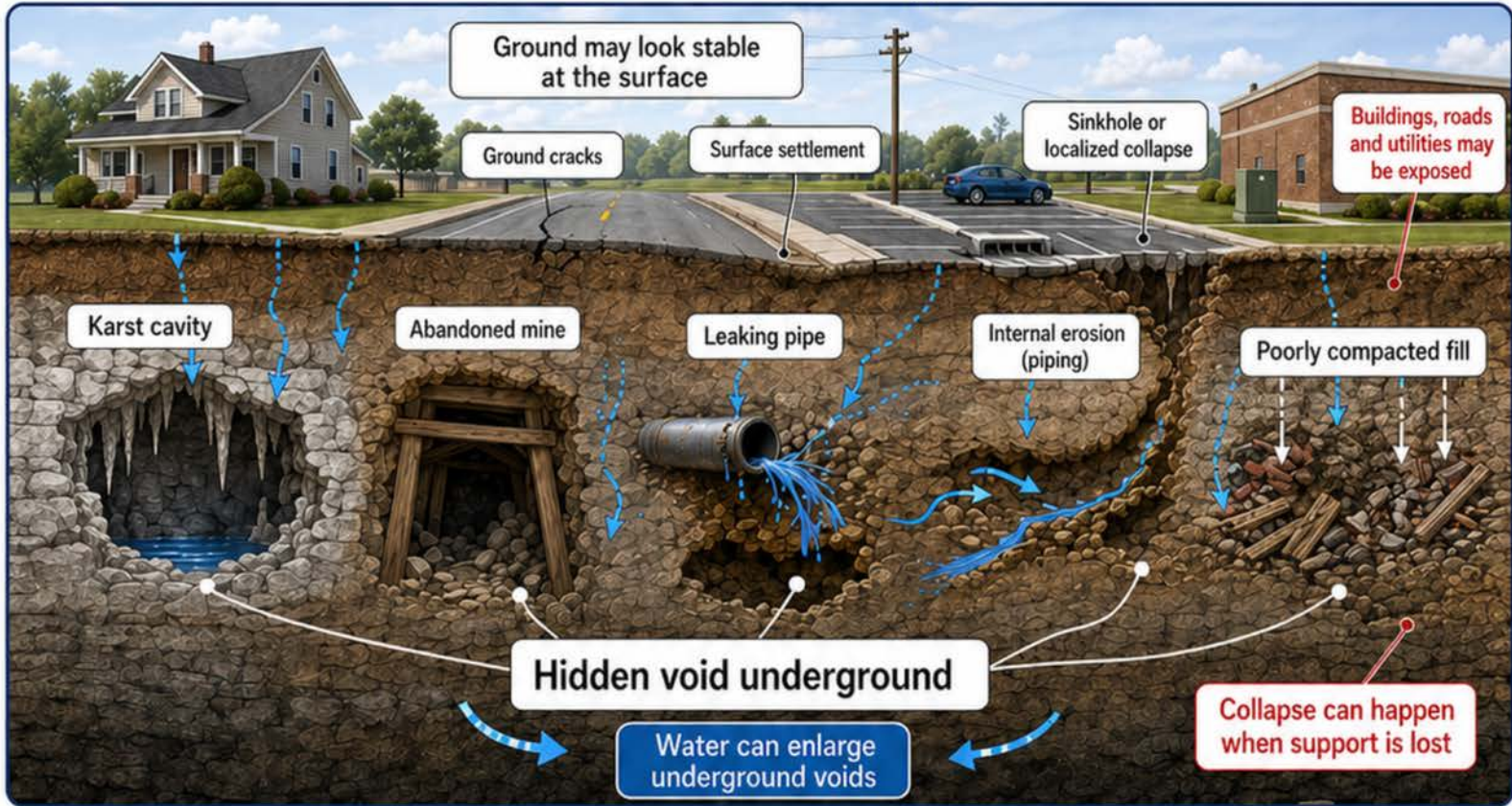


When the Ground Has Hidden Voids

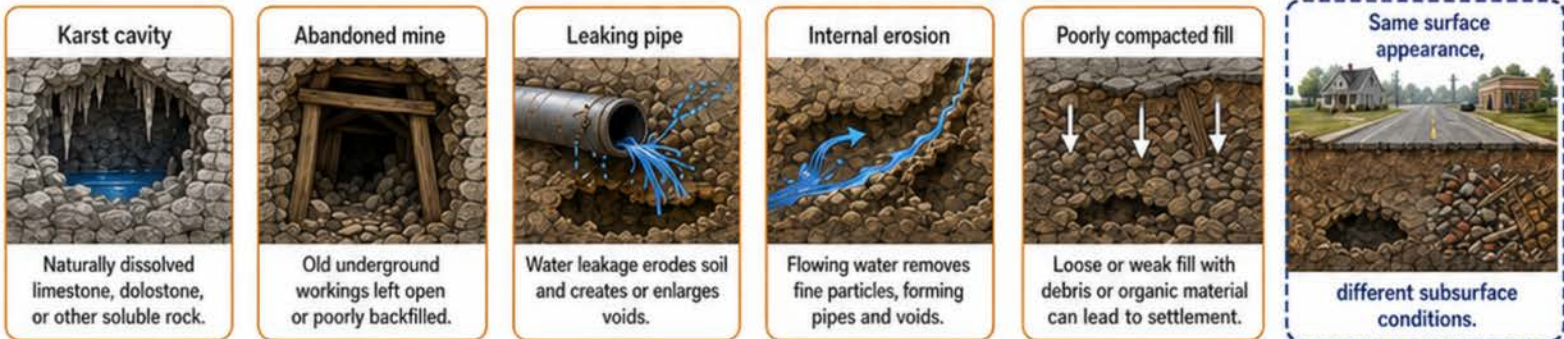
Underground openings can form naturally or through human activity, even when the land surface appears stable.



How hidden voids can affect the surface



Common sources of hidden voids



Policy takeaway: Stable-looking surfaces may hide underground voids. Geotechnical investigation, mine-land records, karst mapping, stormwater controls, utility maintenance, and development review can help reduce the risk of unexpected settlement or collapse.