



# EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Unit Tech Tips

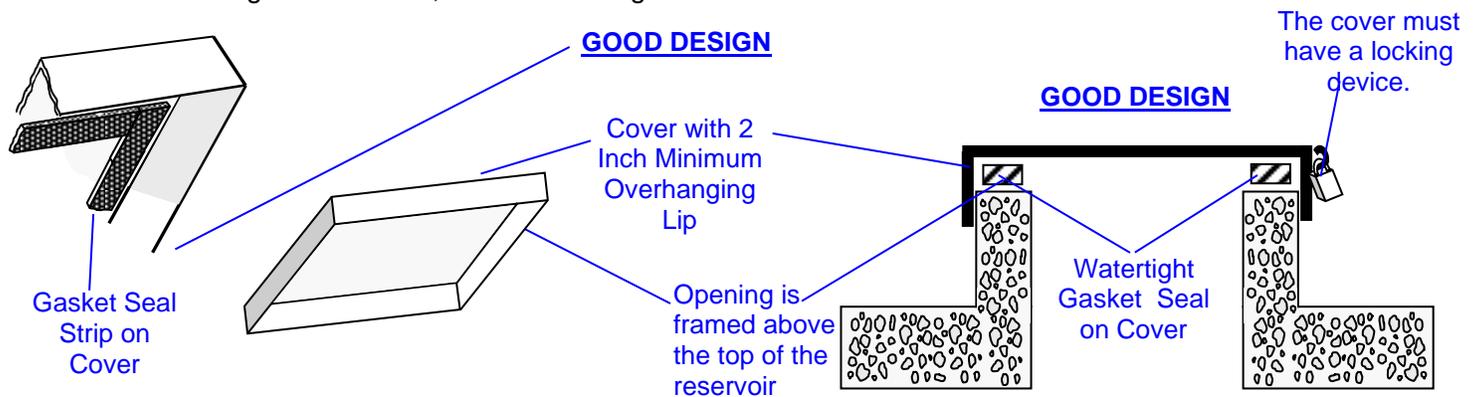
## Sanitary Protection of Drinking Water Storage Tanks: Hatches

(Does not pertain to buried fiberglass tanks with dual hatches)

**Access hatches** must be as watertight as possible to exclude surface runoff, debris, bats, insects, birds, and other animals. You must install locks and keep them locked at all times to prevent unauthorized access. The hatch must be fitted with a solid watertight cover which extends down around the frame at least 2" and have a neoprene gasket seal on the hatch cover to prevent contamination from entering the water system.

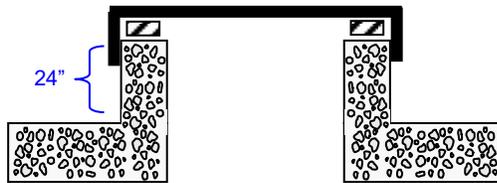
On elevated and ground level tanks, where the bottom of the hatch is greater than 4 feet above the ground level, the hatch must be framed at least 4" above the surface of the tank roof.

On below ground (buried and partially buried) structures, the hatch must be elevated a minimum of 24" above the top of the tank surface or ground surface, whichever is higher.



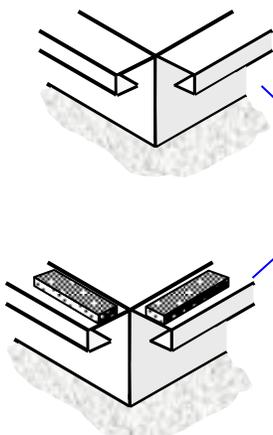
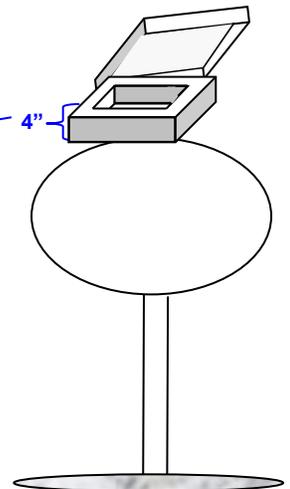
### GOOD DESIGN

On buried and partially buried tanks, the hatch must be elevated a minimum of 24" above the top of the tank surface or ground surface, whichever is higher.



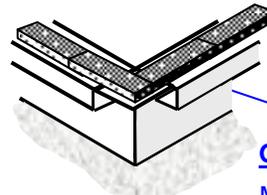
### GOOD DESIGN

On elevated and ground level tanks, the hatch must be framed at least 4" above the top of the tank surface or ground surface, whichever is higher.



### POOR DESIGNS

Insects and spiders can enter the reservoir between the framed section and cover. A seal strip can improve sanitary protection.



### GOOD DESIGN

Make sure the gasket seal provides a tight connection by filling in the corner area when installing the seal. The preferred location to install the seal is on the cover.