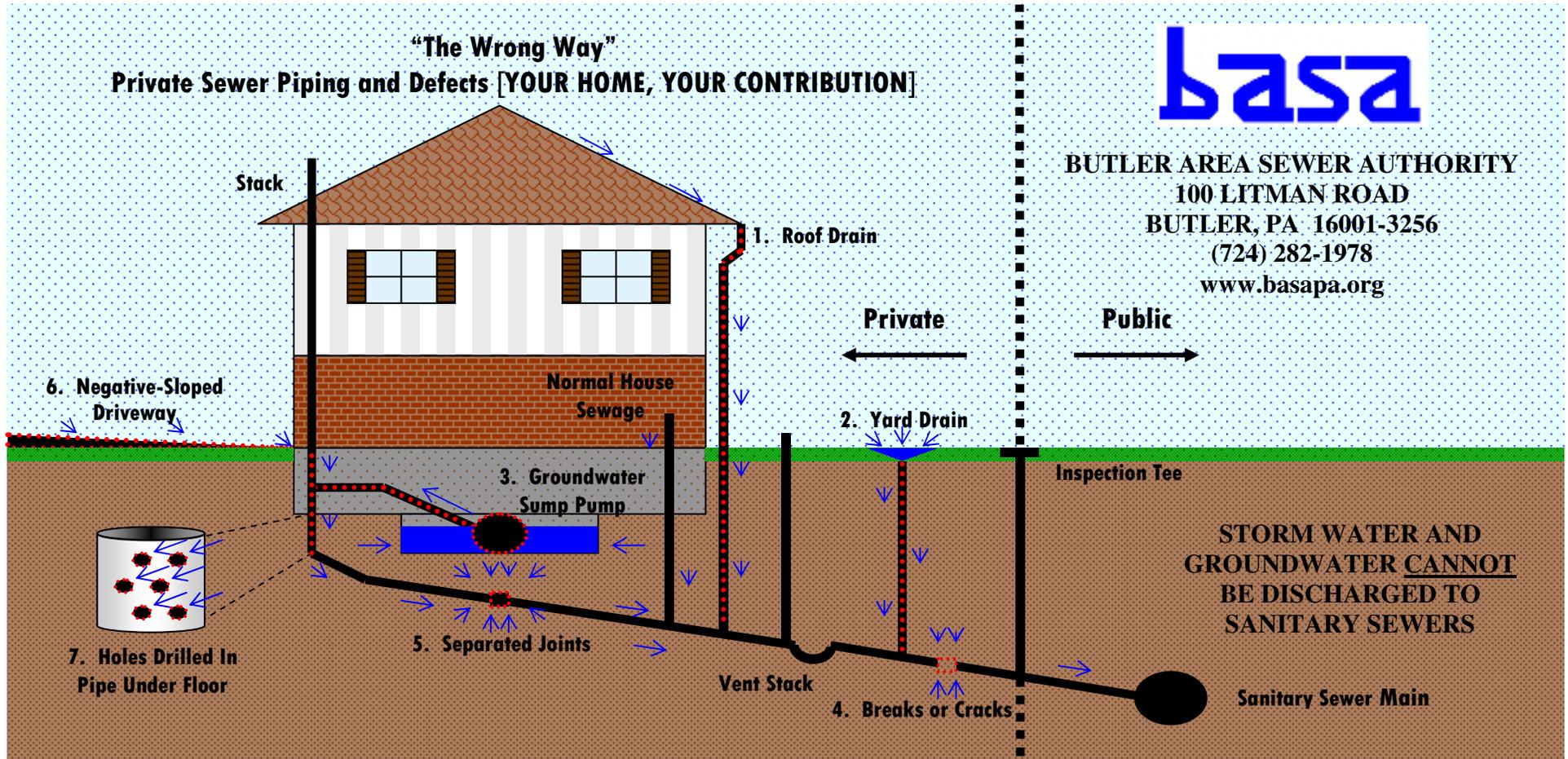


**“The Wrong Way”  
Private Sewer Piping and Defects [YOUR HOME, YOUR CONTRIBUTION]**



**BUTLER AREA SEWER AUTHORITY**  
100 LITMAN ROAD  
BUTLER, PA 16001-3256  
(724) 282-1978  
www.basapa.org



**1. Roof Drains** that are directly connected to the public sewer system are a major source of storm water into the sanitary sewers. To fix this problem, the downspout should be cut from the boot, the boot capped, and then the downspout should be directed away from the house. (\*)

**2. Yard Drains or Area Drains**, located in various low spots on private property. These drains should be disconnected from the sanitary sewer as they result in unnecessary inflow into the system. (\*)

**3. Groundwater sump pumps** that drain into the building lateral should be disconnected from the sanitary sewer and diverted away from the house. (\*)

**4. Breaks or cracks** that form in the building lateral can cause a number of problems. A break or crack in a pipe can allow roots to grow into the pipe forming an obstruction, which could lead to a sewage backup. In addition, breaks and cracks allow groundwater to enter the sanitary sewers.

**5. Separated Joints** within a building lateral can lead to similar problems exhibited by breaks and cracks.

**6. Negative-Sloped Driveways** that direct rain into the basement can be a major problem for homeowners. If a slope like this exists and the basement fills with water during wet periods, direct

the sump pump effluent away from your home, not into the sanitary sewer. (\*)

**7. Holes drilled in sewage pipe under floor** are not only illegal, but are also a major problem. It may seem as a quick fix for wet basements; however, it can contribute thousands of gallons into the sanitary sewers. If there are holes drilled in the line, the pipe should be replaced. Similarly, basement dewatering systems should not be connected to sanitary sewers.

(\*) *Contact your municipality about determining a suitable location, far enough away from the building, to discharge these items. The sanitary sewer system was never intended to handle this extra water.*