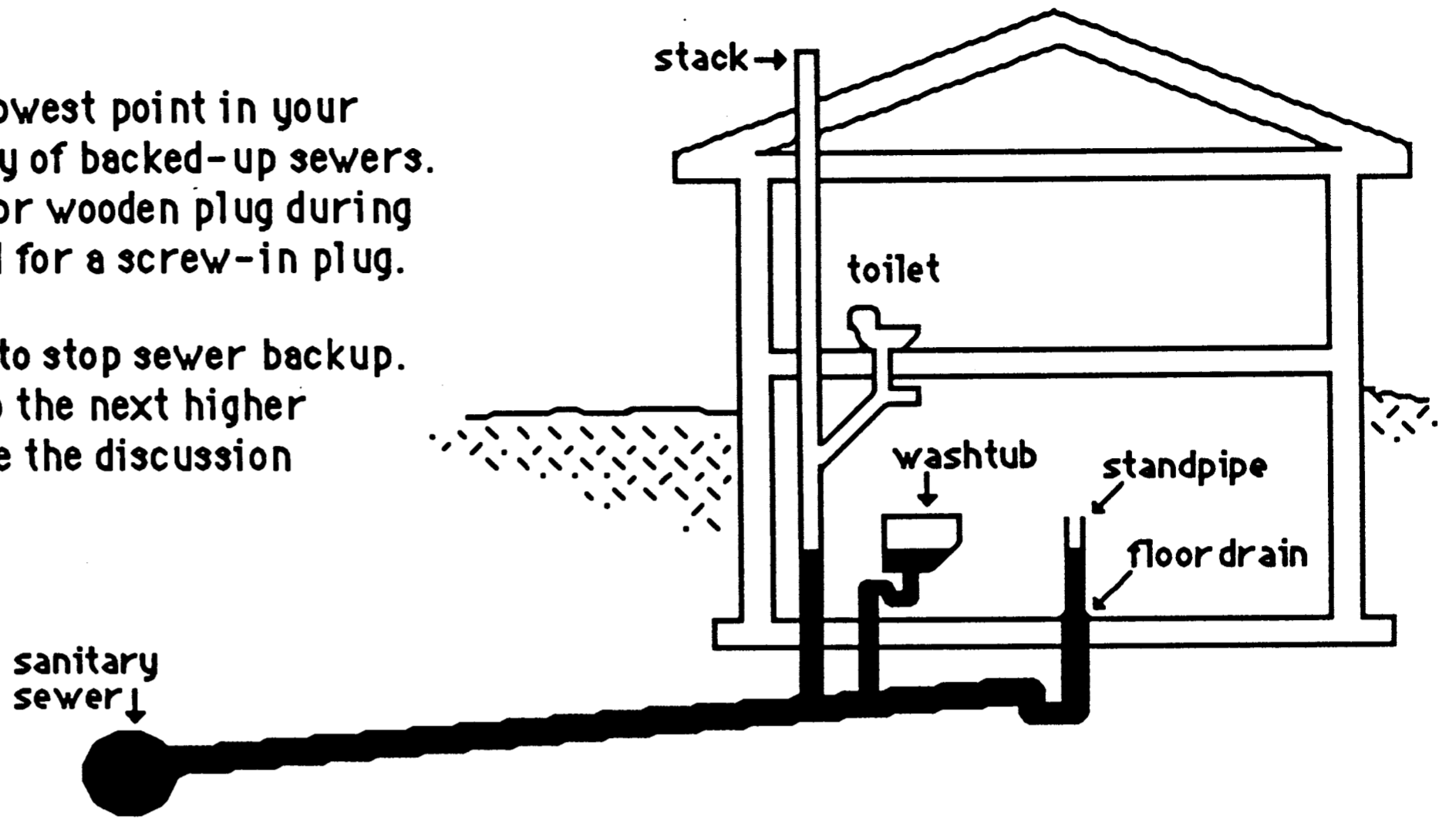


PLUGS:

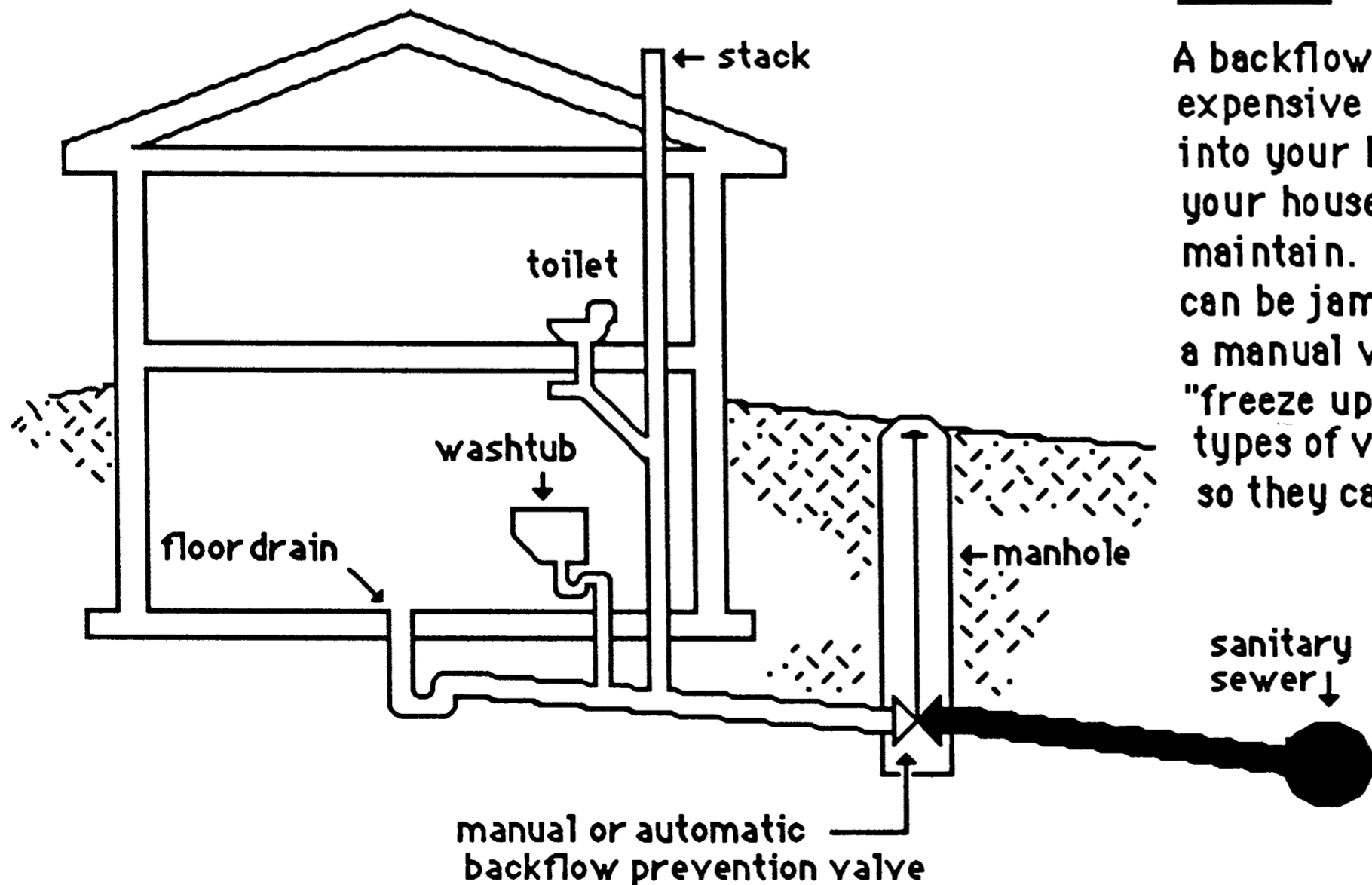
Since the basement floor drain is the lowest point in your house, it is the first place for the entry of backed-up sewers. The drain can be closed with a rubber or wooden plug during heavy rains. Some drains are threaded for a screw-in plug.

This is the simplest and cheapest way to stop sewer backup. However, the sewer could back up into the next higher opening, probably a sink or toilet. See the discussion on pressures.



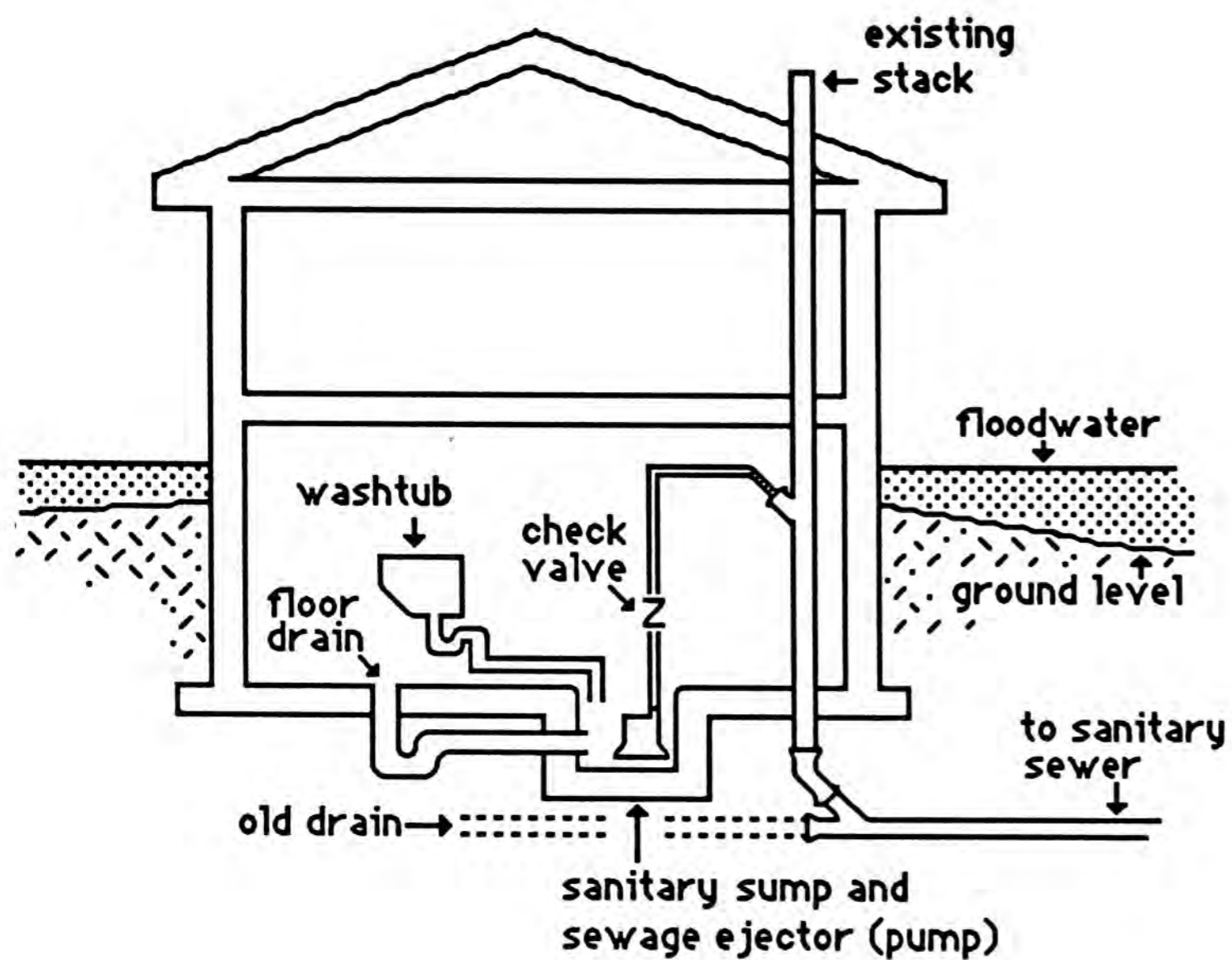
STANDPIPE:

A pipe inserted or screwed into the floor drain will allow the sewer backup to seek its own level. This method may be more dependable than a plug that could pop out. However, it has the same shortcomings as a plug.



VALVES:

A backflow prevention valve in the sewer line is more expensive but it will not permit the sewer to back up into your basement. A valve could be placed outside your house where it would be easier to install and maintain. A valve can be manual or automatic. Valves can be jammed open by debris. This is less likely in a manual valve, but manual valves have been known to "freeze up" if they are not turned periodically. Both types of valves should have a manhole or other access so they can be cleaned out or repaired.



OVERHEAD SEWER:

This is the most expensive but the most dependable and convenient method. Your sewer line would have to be rebuilt so all sanitary sewage from the basement (floor drain, washtub, washing machine etc.) would drain to a pump (sewage ejector). The sewage is then pumped into your existing system. With this setup, the sewer system will back up into the street before it can get high enough to create problems in your house. Since there are different ways to construct overhead sewers, you should talk to your plumber about the best method for your home.