Pitfall #1: Doing things out of order
Replacing pipes, when an asset management program will suffice, is akin to purchasing a new car when your current car simply needs regular maintenance and a tune-up. Get the full value of your existing assets by implementing an asset management program.

Pitfall #2: Underestimating the true ROI
A properly executed asset management program pays for itself in the form of reduced costs: from collateral damage of public and private property, outage disruptions, water loss, labor and equipment, and traffic disruptions. At a time when budgets are tight, asset management makes good fiscal sense.

Pitfall #3: Missing out on alternative funding sources
Utilities limit themselves when funding asset management services through O&M budgets alone. CIP sources are often equally available for these infrastructure improvements given the fact that the asset management services improve water distribution systems (meaning asset lifespan, capacity, and/or efficiency is extended beyond its original expectation). Examples of asset management services that can be funded via CIP sources include asset inventory, GIS-related activities, and/or a system-wide comprehensive asset management program.

Pitfall #4: Not GIS’ing your data
A key benefit of asset management is the wealth of information it provides. Getting this information off of plat cards and into a GIS database expands its use beyond field crews and quickly becomes an indispensable tool for every division within a utility. Geographically-referenced databases help improve workflows, capital planning, construction projects, engineering plans, customer service, isolation traces, what-if scenarios, and a multitude of other robust analyses. Plat cards can’t compete.

Pitfall #5: Failing to capture asset attributes when on-site
The time to capture asset attributes is when crews are in the fields. It’s an easy matter, for instance, for crews to gather and record valve information including turn count, turn direction, depth, and GPS location. Maintaining good data hygiene proves invaluable in the day-to-day as well as in emergency situations. During an emergency, water flow must be stopped as quickly as possible. Armed with accurate information, crews can shut down valves safely and quickly, and with minimized customer footprint.

WACHS WATER SERVICES
is a leading provider of water and sewer system solutions specializing in the assessment of sanitary/storm water collection systems and water distribution systems. Our data collection services and tools make the best use of time and money for developing comprehensive buried infrastructure inventories and operational, structural and hydraulic condition assessment of underground infrastructure. Wachs Water Services helps its clients make informed decisions leading to improved infrastructure performance.