

## Orleans Parish Prison

### State-of-art prison kitchen chooses BLÜCHER drainage

**Industry:**  
Government

**Category:**  
Water Reuse and  
Drainage

**Location:**  
New Orleans, LA

**Installation:**  
BLÜCHER Pipe



*“The project turned to stainless steel because of its light weight, corrosion resistance, tolerance to high temperatures and ready availability.”*

*- Billingsley & Associates President,  
Mike Billingsley*

- CUSTOMER:** Orleans Parish Prison
- SCOPE:** Build a new state-of-the-art facility to prepare and store meals.
- CHALLENGE:** With very expensive and temperature-sensitive food storage space below the kitchen, there was no room for error. Kitchen drainage had to handle high volume and high temperatures.
- SOLUTION:** 8,000 lineal feet of BLÜCHER stainless steel drainage piping.
- RESULTS:** BLÜCHER steel was strong, durable, and very hygienic.

In August of 2005, Hurricane Katrina hammered the coast of Louisiana. When it was over, all the buildings at Orleans Parish Prison were overrun by floodwaters and most were tagged as “totally destroyed” in the hurricane’s wake.

The Orleans Parish sheriff chose to construct a new, state-of-the-art building to prepare and store meals. The building required a plumbing system with the ability to routinely move liquids at temperatures of up to 260°F – steam pressure cookers would routinely dump waste into the system at very high temps. The weight and volume of the waste being drained into the pipes was a key concern as well. There was no room for error; a leak would be catastrophic.

Cast iron drainage was specified originally for the project, though experts convinced project managers of the many benefits of using 8,000 lineal feet of BLÜCHER stainless steel drainage piping because of its resilience, durability, thermal characteristics and acid resistance (sodas and citric acid are commonly used in kitchens). The treated stainless steel has a smooth and non-porous surface, providing superb hygienic properties. Cast iron presented substantial risk of repeated clogging; BLÜCHER pipe eliminated the problem.

Another advantage to BLÜCHER stainless steel was its greater tolerance for transportation of fat, which quickly congeals and can – when it cools – become a tough obstacle for fluids in the pipeline. As an extra measure of prevention, half the pipe is heat-traced with an electric cable heat element that’s attached to the entire length of the pipe.

# BLÜCHER®