

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 4, 2003.

Registration No. 333-103773

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Amendment No. 2
to
FORM S-3
Registration Statement
Under
The Securities Act of 1933

NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC.

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction
of Incorporation or Organization)
29 East Stephenson Street
Freeport, Illinois 61032
(815) 235-4171
(Address, Including Zip Code, and
Telephone Number, Including Area Code,
of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

36-3514169
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

Dale L. Matschullat
Vice President—General Counsel
6833 Stalter Drive, Suite 101
Rockford, Illinois 61108
(815) 381-8182
(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and
Telephone Number, Including Area Code,
of Agent for Service)

Please send copies of all communications to:

David McCarthy
Schiff Hardin & Waite
6600 Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 258-5500

**Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time
after the effective date of this Registration Statement.**

If the only securities being registered on this Form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this Form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this Form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this Form is a post effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If delivery of the prospectus is expected to be made pursuant to Rule 434, please check the following box.

Pursuant to Rule 429 of the Securities Act, the prospectus included in this Registration Statement also relates to the remaining \$49,233,000 aggregate principal amount of securities previously registered under the Securities Act by Registration Statement No. 333-88050 and not issued.

The registrant hereby amends this Registration Statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the registrant shall file a further amendment which specifically states that this Registration Statement shall thereafter become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 or until the Registration Statement shall become effective on such date as the Commission, acting pursuant to said Section 8(a), may determine.

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution

The following table sets forth all expenses in connection with the distribution of the debt securities, preferred stock, common stock and rights, warrants, stock purchase contracts and stock unit contracts being registered. All amounts shown below are estimates, except the registration fee:

Registration fee of Securities and Exchange Commission	\$	80,900
Accountants' fees and expenses		120,000
Legal fees and expenses		125,000
Printing		70,000
Trustee fees and expenses		4,500
Miscellaneous		9,600
TOTAL	\$	410,000

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Section 102 of the Delaware law allows a corporation to eliminate the personal liability of a director to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except in cases where the director breached his or her duty of loyalty to the corporation or its stockholders, failed to act in good faith, engaged in intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law, willfully or negligently authorized the unlawful payment of a dividend or approved an unlawful stock redemption or repurchase or obtained an improper personal benefit. Newell's Charter contains a provision which eliminates directors' personal liability as set forth above.

The Charter and the Bylaws of Newell provide in effect that Newell shall indemnify its directors and officers to the extent permitted by the Delaware law. Section 145 of the Delaware law provides that a Delaware corporation has the power to indemnify its directors, officers, employees and agents in certain circumstances. Subsection (a) of Section 145 of the Delaware law empowers a corporation to indemnify any director, officer, employee or agent, or former director, officer, employee or agent, who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation), against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such action, suit or proceeding provided that such director, officer, employee or agent acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, provided that such director, officer, employee or agent had no reasonable cause to believe that his or her conduct was unlawful.

Subsection (b) of Section 145 of the Delaware law empowers a corporation to indemnify any director, officer, employee or agent, or former director, officer, employee or agent, who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person acted in any of the capacities set forth above, against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit provided that such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, except that no indemnification may be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery shall determine that despite the adjudication

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of liability such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the court shall deem proper.

Section 145 further provides that to the extent that a director or officer or employee of a corporation has been successful in the defense of any action, suit or proceeding referred to in subsections (a) and (b) or in the defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, he or she shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him or her in connection therewith; that indemnification provided by Section 145 shall not be deemed exclusive of any other rights to which the party seeking indemnification may be entitled; and the corporation is empowered to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation against any liability asserted against him or her or incurred by him or her in any such capacity or arising out of his or her status as such whether or not the corporation would have the power to indemnify him or her against such liabilities under Section 145; and that, unless indemnification is ordered by a court, the determination that indemnification under subsections (a) and (b) of Section 145 is proper because the director, officer, employee or agent has met the applicable standard of conduct under such subsections shall be made by (1) a majority vote of the directors who are not parties to such action, suit or proceeding, even though less than a quorum, or (2) if there are no such directors, or if such directors so direct, by independent legal counsel in a written opinion, or (3) by the stockholders.

Newell has in effect insurance policies for general officers' and directors' liability insurance covering all of Newell's officers and directors. Newell also has entered into indemnification agreements with each of its officers and directors that provide that the officers and directors will be entitled to their indemnification rights as they existed at the time they entered into the agreements, regardless of subsequent changes in Newell's indemnification policy.

Pursuant to an Agreement and Plan of Merger by and between Newell Co., Rooster Company and Rubbermaid Incorporated dated as of October 20, 1998 (the "Merger Agreement"), Newell will, to the fullest extent not prohibited by applicable law, indemnify, defend and hold harmless each person who is now, or has been at any time prior to the date of the merger agreement, or who becomes prior to the Effective Time (as defined in the Merger Agreement), an officer, director of employee of Rubbermaid or any of its subsidiaries against any losses, expenses, claims, damages or liabilities (1) arising out of acts or omissions occurring at or prior to the Effective Time that are based on or arising out of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer or employee of Rubbermaid or any of its subsidiaries or served as a fiduciary under or with respect to any Rubbermaid employee benefit plan and (2) to the extent they are based on or arise out

of the transactions contemplated by the Merger Agreement. In addition, from and after the Effective Time, directors and officers of Rubbermaid who become directors or officers of Newell will be entitled to indemnification under the Charter and the Bylaws of Newell, as the same may be amended from time to time in accordance with their terms and applicable law, and to all other indemnity rights and protections as are afforded to other directors and officers of Newell.

Additionally, for six years after the Effective Time, Newell will maintain in effect Rubbermaid's current directors' and officers' liability insurance covering acts or omissions occurring prior to the Effective Time with respect to those persons who are currently covered by Rubbermaid's directors' and officers' liability insurance policy on terms with respect to such coverage and amount no less favorable than those of such policy in effect on the date of the Merger Agreement; provided that Newell may substitute policies of Newell or its subsidiaries containing terms with respect to coverage and amount no less favorable to such directors or officers. Newell will not be required to pay aggregate premiums for the insurance described in this paragraph in excess of 200% of the aggregate premiums paid by Rubbermaid in 1998, except that if the annual premiums of such insurance coverage exceed such amount, Newell will be obligated to obtain a policy with the best coverage available, in the reasonable judgment of Newell's Board, for a cost up to but not exceeding such amount.

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For six years after the Effective Time, Newell will also maintain in effect Rubbermaid's current fiduciary liability insurance policies for employees who serve or have served as fiduciaries under any Rubbermaid benefit plan with coverages and in amounts no less favorable than those of such policy in effect on the date of the Merger Agreement.

Item 16. Exhibits

The Exhibits filed herewith are set forth on the Index to Exhibits filed as a part of this Registration Statement on page II-7 and II-8 hereof.

Item 17. Undertakings

The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

- (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;
- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement.

provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i) and (1)(ii) do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3, and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing on an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

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Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the provisions described under Item 15 above, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the Securities and Exchange Commission such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. If a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Rockford, State of Illinois, on this 4th day of April, 2003.

NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ ANDREA L. HORNE

Andrea L. Horne
Vice President—Corporate Development and Corporate Secretary

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Title	Date
*	President, Chief Executive Officer (Principal Executive Officer) and Director	April 4, 2003
Joseph Galli, Jr.		
*	Vice President—Corporate Controller and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)	April 4, 2003
J. Patrick Robinson		
*	President—Corporate Development and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer)	April 4, 2003
William T. Alldredge		
*	Director	April 4, 2003
Thomas E. Clarke		
*	Director	April 4, 2003
Scott S. Cowen		
*	Director	April 4, 2003
Alton F. Doody		
*	Director	April 4, 2003
Robert L. Katz		

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*	Director	April 4, 2003
William D. Marohn		
*	Director	April 4, 2003
Elizabeth Cuthbert Millett		
*	Director	April 4, 2003
Cynthia A. Montgomery		
*	Director	April 4, 2003
Allan P. Newell		
*	Chairman of the Board and Director	April 4, 2003
William P. Sovey		

Gordon R. Sullivan

Raymond G. Viault

*By:

/s/ ANDREA L. HORNE

Andrea L. Horne
Attorney-In-Fact

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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

**EXHIBIT
INDEX****EXHIBIT**

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|------|--|
| 1.1 | Form of Underwriting Agreement with respect to Debt Securities*** |
| 1.2 | Form of Underwriting Agreement with respect to Common Stock*** |
| 1.3 | Form of Underwriting Agreement with respect to Preferred Stock*** |
| 1.4 | Form of Underwriting Agreement with respect to Stock Purchase Contracts*** |
| 1.5 | Form of Underwriting Agreement with respect to Stock Purchase Units*** |
| 1.6 | Form of Underwriting Agreement with respect to Warrants*** |
| 3.1 | Restated Certificate of Incorporation of Newell Rubbermaid Inc., as amended as of April 5, 2001 (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to the Company's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarterly period ended March 31, 2001) |
| 3.2 | By-Laws of Newell Rubbermaid Inc., as amended through January 16, 2003** |
| 4.1 | Indenture dated as of November 1, 1995 between Newell Rubbermaid Inc. and The Chase Manhattan Bank (now known as JPMorgan Chase Bank), as Trustee, relating to the Senior Debt Securities (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 3, 1996) |
| 4.2 | Form of Indenture between Newell and The Chase Manhattan Bank (now known as JPMorgan Chase Bank), as Trustee, relating to the Subordinated Debt Securities (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3, File No. 33-64225) |
| 4.3 | Form of Specimen Common Stock Certificate of Newell Rubbermaid Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-4, File No. 333-71747) |
| 4.4 | Rights Agreement, dated as of August 6, 1998, between Newell Co. and First Chicago Trust Company of New York, as Rights Agent (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 4 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated August 6, 1998) |
| 4.5 | Form of Specimen of Preferred Stock Certificate of Newell Rubbermaid Inc.*** |
| 4.6 | Form of Certificate of Designation, Preferences and Rights of Preferred Stock of Newell Rubbermaid Inc.*** |
| 4.7 | Form of Stock Purchase Contract Agreement*** |
| 4.8 | Form of Stock Purchase Unit Agreement*** |
| 4.9 | Form of Warrant Agreement (including Form of Warrant Certificate) with respect to Warrants to Purchase Debt Securities*** |
| 4.10 | Form of Warrant Agreement (including Form of Warrant Certificate) with respect to Warrants to Purchase Common Stock*** |
| 4.11 | Form of Warrant Agreement (including Form of Warrant Certificate) with respect to Warrants to Purchase Preferred Stock*** |
| 4.12 | Form of Warrant Agreement (including Form of Warrant Certificate) with respect to Warrants to Purchase Stock Purchase Contracts*** |

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| 4.13 | Form of Warrant Agreement (including Form of Warrant Certificate) with respect to Warrants to Purchase Stock Purchase Units*** |
|------|--|

- 5.1 Opinion of Schiff Hardin & Waite*
 - 12.1 Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges of Newell Rubbermaid Inc. (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 11 to the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2001)
 - 23.1 Consent of Schiff Hardin & Waite (contained in their opinion filed as Exhibit 5.1)
 - 23.2 Consent of Ernst & Young**
 - 24.1 Powers of attorney**
 - 25.1 Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 of Trustee for Senior and Subordinated Debt Indentures**
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* Filed herewith.

** Previously filed.

*** To be filed as an exhibit to a document filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and incorporated by reference herein.

QuickLinks

[PART II INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS](#)

[SIGNATURES](#)

[INDEX TO EXHIBITS](#)

SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE

6600 Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6473

Telephone (312) 258-5500 Facsimile (312) 258-5700

Frederick L. Hartmann

(312) 258-5656

Email: fhartmann@schiffhardin.com

April 4, 2003

Newell Rubbermaid Inc.
29 East Stephenson Street
Freeport, Illinois 61032

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Newell Rubbermaid Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), in connection with a Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 333-103773) filed by the Company with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "Commission") on March 12, 2003 under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), Amendment No. 1 filed by the Company with the Commission on March 31, 2003 and Amendment No. 2 filed by the Company with the Commission on April 4, 2003 (such Registration Statement, as so amended, the "Registration Statement"). The Registration Statement relates to the issuance and sale from time to time, pursuant to Rule 415 of the rules and regulations promulgated under the Securities Act, of the following securities of the Company with an aggregate initial offering price up to \$1,000,000,000 or the equivalent thereof, based on the applicable exchange rate at the time of sale, in one or more foreign currencies, currency units or composite currencies as shall be designated by the Company: (i) common stock (including related Common Stock Purchase Rights), par value \$1.00 per share (the "Common Stock"); (ii) preferred stock (the "Preferred Stock"); (iii) senior and subordinated debt securities, consisting of debentures, notes or other evidences of indebtedness in one or more series ("Debt Securities"); (iv) warrants to purchase Debt Securities, warrants to purchase Common Stock, warrants to purchase Preferred Stock, warrants to purchase Stock Purchase Contracts and warrants to purchase Stock Purchase Units (collectively, the "Warrants"); (v) the stock purchase contracts (the "Stock Purchase Contracts"); and (vi) the stock purchase units (the "Stock Purchase Units"). The Common Stock, Preferred Stock, Debt Securities, Warrants, Stock Purchase Contracts and Stock Purchase Units are collectively referred to herein as the "Offered Securities."

The senior Debt Securities are to be issued under an indenture, dated as of November 1, 1995, between the Company and The Chase Manhattan Bank (now known as JPMorgan Chase Bank), as trustee, as filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Company's Current Report on Form 8-K dated May 3, 1996 (the "Senior Debt Indenture"). The subordinated Debt Securities are to be issued under an indenture, to be entered into between the Company and JPMorgan Chase Bank, as trustee, in the form filed as Exhibit 4.4 to the Company's Registration Statement on Form S-3 (File No. 33-64225) (the "Subordinated Debt Indenture"). Each such indenture is referred to as an "Indenture" and, together, as the "Indentures."

This opinion is being delivered in accordance with the requirements of Item 601(b)(5) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Act.

In connection with our opinion, we have examined the Registration Statement, including the exhibits thereto, and such other documents, corporate records and instruments, and have examined such laws and regulations, as we have deemed necessary for the purposes of this opinion. In such examination, we have assumed the genuineness of all signatures, the authenticity of all documents submitted to us as originals, the conformity to the original documents of all documents submitted to us as copies and the authenticity of the originals of such latter documents.

In rendering the opinions in this letter we have assumed, without independent investigation or verification, that each party to each of the documents executed or to be executed, other than the Company, (a) is validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization, (b) has full power and authority to execute such documents to which it is a party and to perform its obligations thereunder, (c) has taken all necessary action to authorize execution of such documents on its behalf by the persons executing same, (d) has properly executed and delivered, or will properly execute and deliver, each of such documents to which it is a party, and (e) has duly obtained all consents or approvals of any nature from and made all filings with any governmental authorities necessary for such party to execute, deliver or perform its obligations under such documents to which it is a party. In addition, in rendering such opinions we have assumed, without independent investigation or verification, (i) that the execution and delivery of, and performance of their respective obligations

under, the documents executed or to be executed by each party thereto, other than the Company, do not violate any law, rule, regulation, agreement or instrument binding upon such party and (ii) that each of such documents is the legal, valid and binding obligation of, and enforceable against, each party thereto, other than the Company.

Based on the foregoing and subject to the qualifications set forth below, we are of the opinion that, when the Registration Statement, as it may be amended, has become effective under the Securities Act and any applicable state securities or Blue Sky laws have been complied with:

1. With respect to any offering of Common Stock, when (i) an appropriate prospectus supplement with respect to the Common Stock has been prepared, delivered and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (ii) if the Common Stock is to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, the underwriting agreement with respect to the Common Stock has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance of the Common Stock and related matters; (iv) the terms of the issuance and sale of the Common Stock have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws of the Company, so as not to violate any applicable law or the Restated Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws of the Company or result in a default under a breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company; and (v) certificates representing the shares of Common Stock are duly executed, countersigned, registered and delivered upon payment of the agreed upon consideration therefor, the shares of Common Stock, when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement

with respect to the Common Stock or any other duly authorized, executed and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

2. With respect to the shares of any series of Preferred Stock (the "Offered Preferred Stock"), when (i) an appropriate prospectus supplement with respect to the shares of the Offered Preferred Stock has been prepared, delivered and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (ii) if the Offered Preferred Stock is to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, the underwriting agreement with respect to the shares of the Offered Preferred Stock has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the shares of the Offered Preferred Stock and related matters, including the adoption of a Certificate of Designations for the Offered Preferred Stock in accordance with the applicable provisions of Delaware law (the "Certificate of Designations"); (iv) the filing of the Certificate of Designations with the Delaware Secretary of State has duly occurred; (v) the terms of the Offered Preferred Stock and of their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Certificate of Incorporation and the By-laws of the Company, including the Certificate of Designations, so as not to violate any applicable law or the Restated Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws of the Company or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company; and (vi) certificates representing the shares of the Offered Preferred Stock are duly executed, countersigned, registered and delivered upon payment of the agreed upon consideration therefor: (1) the shares of the Offered Preferred Stock, when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement or any other duly authorized, executed and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable; and (2) if the Offered Preferred Stock is convertible or exchangeable into Common Stock, the Common Stock issuable upon conversion or exchange of the Offered Preferred Stock will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, assuming the conversion or exchange of the Offered Preferred Stock is in accordance with the terms of the Certificate of Designations.

3. With respect to any series of Debt Securities (the "Offered Debt Securities"), when (i) an appropriate prospectus supplement with respect to the Offered Debt Securities has been prepared, delivered and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (ii) if the Offered Debt Securities are to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, the underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Debt Securities has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Debt Securities and related matters; (iv) the terms of the Offered Debt Securities and of their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the relevant Indenture so as not to violate any applicable law or the Restated Articles of Incorporation of the Company or By-laws of the Company or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company; and (v) the Offered Debt Securities have been duly executed and authenticated in accordance with the provisions of the relevant Indenture and duly delivered to the purchasers thereof upon payment of the agreed-upon consideration therefor: (1) the Offered Debt Securities, when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement, if any,

or any other duly authorized, executed and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their respective terms; and (2) if the Offered Debt Securities are convertible or exchangeable into Common Stock or Preferred Stock, the Common Stock or Preferred Stock issuable upon conversion or exchange of the Offered Debt Securities will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, assuming the conversion or exchange of the Offered Debt Securities is in accordance with the terms of the relevant Indenture and assuming, in the case of Preferred Stock, a Certificate of Designations has been duly adopted and filed with the Delaware Secretary of State.

4. With respect to any offering of Warrants (the "Offered Warrants"), when (i) an appropriate prospectus supplement with respect to the Offered Warrants has been prepared, delivered and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (ii) if the Offered Warrants are to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, the underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Warrants has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Warrants and related matters, including the adoption of the Warrant Agreement with respect to Warrants to purchase Debt Securities, the Warrant Agreement with respect to Warrants to purchase Common Stock, the Warrant Agreement with respect to Warrants to purchase Preferred Stock, the Warrant Agreement with respect to Warrants to purchase Stock Purchase Contracts and the Warrant Agreement with respect to Warrants to purchase Stock Purchase Units, (individually a "Warrant Agreement"), as the case may be, for the Offered Warrants; (iv) the terms of the Offered Warrants and of their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws of the Company so as not to violate any applicable law or the Restated Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws of the Company or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company; and (v) the Warrant Agreement for the Offered Warrants has been duly authorized, executed and delivered and certificates representing the Offered Warrants have been duly executed, countersigned, registered and delivered to the purchasers thereof upon payment of the agreed-upon consideration therefor: (1) the Offered Warrants, when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement, if any, or any other duly authorized, executed and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company; (2) if the Offered Warrants are exercisable for Common Stock or Preferred Stock, the Common Stock or Preferred Stock issuable upon exercise of the Offered Warrants will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, assuming the exercise of the Offered Warrants is in accordance with the terms of the Warrant Agreement with respect to Warrants to purchase Common Stock or the Warrant Agreement with respect to Warrants to purchase Preferred Stock, as the case may be, and assuming, in the case of Preferred Stock, a Certificate of Designations has been duly adopted and filed with the Delaware Secretary of State; and (3) if the Offered Warrants are exercisable for Debt Securities, the Debt Securities issuable upon exercise of the Offered Warrants will be legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms, assuming the exercise of the Offered Warrants is in accordance with the terms of the Warrant Agreement with respect to Warrants to purchase Debt Securities and is in accordance with the terms of the Indenture governing such Debt Securities.

5. With respect to any offering of Stock Purchase Contracts (the "Offered Stock Purchase Contracts"), when (i) an appropriate prospectus supplement with respect to the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts has been prepared, delivered and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (ii) if the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts are to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, the underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts and related matters, including adoption of the Stock Purchase Contract Agreement for the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts; (iv) the terms of the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts and of their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws of the Company so as not to violate any applicable law or the Restated Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company; and (v) the Offered Stock Purchase Contract Agreement has been duly executed and duly delivered and certificates representing the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts have been duly executed, authenticated, registered and delivered to the purchasers thereof upon payment of the agreed-upon consideration therefor: (1) the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts, when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement, if any, or any other duly authorized, executed and delivered

valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company; and (2) the Common Stock issuable upon settlement of the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts will be

duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, assuming the Offered Stock Purchase Contracts are settled in accordance with the terms of the Stock Purchase Contract Agreement.

6. With respect to any offering of Stock Purchase Units (the "Offered Stock Purchase Units"), when (i) an appropriate prospectus supplement with respect to the Offered Stock Purchase Units has been prepared, delivered and filed in compliance with the Securities Act and the applicable rules and regulations thereunder; (ii) if the Offered Stock Purchase Units are to be sold pursuant to a firm commitment underwritten offering, the underwriting agreement with respect to the Offered Stock Purchase Units has been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (iii) the Board of Directors, including any appropriate committee appointed thereby, and appropriate officers of the Company have taken all necessary corporate action to approve the issuance and terms of the Offered Stock Purchase Units and related matters, including the adoption of the Stock Purchase Unit Agreement for the Offered Stock Purchase Units; (iv) the terms of the Offered Stock Purchase Units and of their issuance and sale have been duly established in conformity with the Restated Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws of the Company so as not to violate any applicable law or the Restated Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws of the Company or result in a default under or breach of any agreement or instrument binding upon the Company; and (v) the Offered Stock Purchase Unit Agreement has been duly executed and duly delivered and certificates representing the Offered Stock Purchase Units have been duly executed, authenticated, registered and delivered to the purchasers thereof upon payment of the agreed-upon consideration therefor: (1) the Offered Stock Purchase Units, when issued and sold in accordance with the applicable underwriting agreement, if any, or any other duly authorized, executed and delivered valid and binding purchase or agency agreement, will be legal, valid and binding obligations of the Company; and (2) the Common Stock issuable upon settlement of the Offered Stock Purchase Units will be duly authorized, validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable, assuming the Offered Stock Purchase Units are settled in accordance with the terms of the Stock Purchase Unit Agreement.

The opinions set forth above are subject to the following qualifications:

A. The opinions expressed herein with respect to the legality, validity, binding nature and enforceability of any Offered Securities is subject to (i) applicable laws relating to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium, fraudulent transfer or other similar laws affecting creditors' rights generally, whether now or hereafter in effect and (ii) general principles of equity, including, without limitation, concepts of materiality, laches, reasonableness, good faith and fair dealing and the principles regarding when injunctive or other equitable remedies will be available (regardless of whether considered in a proceeding at law or in equity).

B. The foregoing opinions are limited to the laws of the State of Illinois, the State of New York, the General Corporation Law of Delaware, and the federal laws of the United States of America, and we express no opinion as to the laws of any other jurisdiction.

The opinions expressed in this opinion letter are as of the date of this opinion letter only and as to the laws covered hereby only as they are in effect on that date. The opinions herein are limited to the matters expressly set forth in this opinion letter, and no opinion is given or may be inferred beyond the matters expressly set forth in this opinion letter.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement and to the reference to us under the caption "Legal Matters" in the Prospectus contained in the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE

By: /s/ FREDERICK L. HARTMANN

Frederick L. Hartmann

QuickLinks

[Exhibit 5.1](#)