

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on May 9, 2003

Registration No. 333-

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM S-8
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)

36-3514169
(I.R.S. employer
identification no.)

DEERFIELD CORPORATE CENTRE ONE
13010 MORRIS ROAD, SUITE 100
ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA 30004
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC. 2003 STOCK PLAN
(Full title of the plan)

DALE L. MATSCHULLAT
VICE PRESIDENT-GENERAL COUNSEL
6833 STALTER DRIVE, SUITE 101
ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS 61108
(Name and address of agent for service)

(815) 381-8114
(Telephone number, including area code, of agent for service)

WITH A COPY TO:

LAURALYN G. BENGEL
SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE
6600 SEARS TOWER
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60606
(312) 258-5500

CALCULATION
OF
REGISTRATION
FEE ~~AMOUNT~~
~~PROPOSED~~
~~PROPOSED~~
~~TITLE OF~~
~~SECURITIES TO~~
~~BE TO BE~~
MAXIMUM
MAXIMUM
AMOUNT OF
REGISTERED
REGISTERED
OFFERING
PRICE
AGGREGATE
REGISTRATION
FEE PER SHARE
OFFERING

~~PRICE - Common
Stock, par
value \$1.00
per share
(including
Common Stock
15,000,000
(1) (2)
\$436,712,447.5
\$35,330.04
Purchase
Rights)~~

- (1) Pursuant to Rule 416 of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement shall also cover any additional shares of Common Stock which become issuable under the Plan pursuant to this Registration Statement by reason of any stock dividend, stock split, recapitalization or any other similar transaction effected without the receipt of consideration which results in an increase in the number of the Registrant's outstanding shares of Common Stock.
- (2) Estimated on the basis of (i) \$29.39 per share, with respect to 56,000 shares, (ii) \$29.34 per share, with respect to 1,648,500 shares and (iii) \$29.085 per share, the average of the high and low sales prices of the Common Stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on May 6, 2003 with respect to 13,295,500 shares. (See Rules 457(c) and 457(h) of the Securities Act of 1933.)

PART II

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN THE REGISTRATION STATEMENT

ITEM 3. INCORPORATION OF DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE.

The following documents filed by Newell Rubbermaid Inc. (the "Registrant") are incorporated herein by reference:

- (a) The Registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2002;
- (b) The Registrant's Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended March 31, 2003;
- (c) The Registrant's current reports on Form 8-K filed on January 8, 2003, January 10, 2003, January 22, 2003, May 5, 2003 and May 6, 2003.
- (d) The description of the Registrant's Common Stock contained in the Registrant's Registration Statement on Form 8-B filed on June 30, 1987; and
- (e) The description of the Registrant's Rights contained in the Registration Statement on Form 8-A12B dated August 28, 1998.

All documents subsequently filed by the Registrant or the Plan pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 and 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, prior to the filing of a post-effective amendment which indicates that all securities offered hereby have been sold or which deregisters all securities then remaining unsold, shall be deemed to be incorporated by reference herein and to be a part hereof from the date of filing of such documents.

ITEM 4. DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES.

Not applicable.

ITEM 5. INTERESTS OF NAMED EXPERTS AND COUNSEL.

Not applicable.

ITEM 6. 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

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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. The Registrant Charter contains a provision which eliminates directors' personal liability as set forth above.

The Charter and the Bylaws of the Registrant provide in effect that the Registrant 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 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,

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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.

The Registrant has in effect insurance policies for general officers' and directors' liability insurance covering all of the Registrant's officers and directors. The Registrant 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 the Registrant'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"), the Registrant 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.

Additionally, for six years after the Effective Time, the Registrant 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

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less favorable than those of such policy in effect on the date of the Merger Agreement; provided that the Registrant may substitute policies of the Registrant or its subsidiaries containing terms with respect to coverage and amount no less favorable to such directors or officers. The Registrant 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, the Registrant will be obligated to obtain a policy with the best coverage available, in the reasonable judgment of the Registrant's Board, for a cost up to but not exceeding such amount.

For six years after the Effective Time, the Registrant 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 7. EXEMPTION FROM REGISTRATION CLAIMED.

Not applicable.

ITEM 8. EXHIBITS.

The exhibits filed herewith or incorporated by reference herein

are set forth in the Exhibit Index filed as part of this registration statement on page 9 hereof.

ITEM 9. 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; and

(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;

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PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that paragraphs (i) and (ii) do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in periodic reports filed 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.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes 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 Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and each filing of the 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.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, 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 Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that 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 Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

SIGNATURES

THE REGISTRANT. 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-8 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 the 7th day of May, 2003.

NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC.
(Registrant)

By: /s/ William T. Alldredge

William T. Alldredge
President - Corporate
Development and Chief
Financial Officer

Each person whose signature appears below appoints Joseph Galli, Jr., William T. Alldredge, Andrea L. Horne or Dale L. Matschullat or any one of them, as such person's true and lawful attorneys to execute in the name of each such person, and to file, any pre-effective or post-effective amendments to this Registration Statement that any of such attorneys shall deem necessary or advisable to enable the Registrant to comply with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and any rules, regulations and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission with respect thereto, in connection with this Registration Statement, which amendments may make such changes in such Registration Statement as any of the above-named attorneys deems appropriate, and to comply with the undertakings of the Registrant made in connection with this Registration Statement; and each of the undersigned hereby ratifies all that any of said attorneys shall do or cause to be done by virtue thereof.

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

- /s/
Joseph
Galli, Jr.
President,
Chief
Executive
Officer
May 7,
2003

~~(Principal
Executive
Officer)
and Joseph
Galli, Jr.
Director
/s/ J.
Patrick
Robinson
Vice
President~~

Corporate
Controller
May 7,
2003

and
Chief
Accounting
Officer
(Principal
J. Patrick
Robinson
Accounting
Officer) @
SIGNATURE
TITLE DATE

/s/
William T.
Aldredge
President

Corporate
Development
and May 7,
2003

Chief
Financial
Officer
(Principal
William T.
Aldredge
Financial
Officer)
/s/ Thomas
E. Clarke
Director
February
10, 2003

Thomas E.
Clarke /s/
Scott S.
Cowen
Director
February
10, 2003

Scott S.
Cowen /s/
Alton F.
Doody
Director
February
10, 2003

Alton F.
Doody /s/
William D.
Marohn
Director
February
10, 2003

William D.
Marohn /s/
Elizabeth
Cuthbert
Millett

Director
February
~~10, 2003~~

Elizabeth
Cuthbert
Millett
~~/s/~~
Cynthia A.
Montgomery
Director
February
~~10, 2003~~

Cynthia A.
Montgomery
~~/s/~~ Allan
P. Newell
Director
February
~~10, 2003~~

Allan P.
Newell ~~/s/~~
William P.
Sevey
Chairman
of the
Board and
Director
February
~~10, 2003~~

William P.
Sevey ~~/s/~~
Gordon R.
Sullivan
Director
February
~~10, 2003~~

Gordon R.
Sullivan
~~/s/~~
Raymond G.
Viault
Director
February
~~10, 2003~~

Raymond G.
Viault

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- 4 Rights Agreement, dated as of August 6, 1998, between Newell and First Chicago Trust Company of New York (incorporated by reference to Exhibit I to Newell's Registration Statement on Form 8-A12B (Reg. No. 1-09608), filed with the Commission on August 28, 1998).
 - 5 Opinion of Schiff Hardin & Waite.
 - 23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP.
 - 23.2 Information Regarding Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP.
 - 23.3 Consent of Schiff Hardin & Waite (contained in the Opinion filed as Exhibit 5).
 - 24 Power of Attorney (set forth on the signature page).

May 9, 2003

Securities and Exchange Commission
Judiciary Plaza
450 Fifth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20549

RE: NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC. - REGISTRATION OF
COMMON STOCK, PAR VALUE \$1.00 PER SHARE, ON FORM S-8

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to Newell Rubbermaid Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), in connection with the Company's filing of a Registration Statement on Form S-8 (the "Registration Statement") covering 15,000,000 shares of the Company's common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, and the related Purchase Rights attached thereto (the "Common Stock"), issuable under the Newell Rubbermaid Inc. 2003 Stock Plan (the "Plan").

In this connection we have made such investigation and have examined such documents as we have deemed necessary in order to enable us to render the opinion contained herein.

Based on the foregoing, it is our opinion that the shares of the Common Stock, when issued in accordance with the terms of the Plan, and pursuant to the Registration Statement, will be legally issued, fully paid and nonassessable.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion as an exhibit to the Registration Statement.

Very truly yours,

SCHIFF HARDIN & WAITE

By: /s/ Lauralyn G. Bengel

Lauralyn G. Bengel

CONSENT OF ERNST & YOUNG LLP, INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

We consent to the incorporation by reference in the Registration Statement (Form S-8) pertaining to the Newell Rubbermaid Inc. 2003 Stock Plan of our report dated January 27, 2003, with respect to the consolidated financial statements and schedule of Newell Rubbermaid Inc. included in its Annual Report (Form 10-K) for the year ended December 31, 2002, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

/s/Ernst & Young, LLP

INFORMATION REGARDING CONSENT
OF ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

The Registrant's consolidated financial statements and schedules as of December 31, 2001 and 2000 and for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2002 incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement have been audited by Arthur Andersen LLP, independent auditors, as stated in their reports with respect thereto, and are included herein in reliance upon the authority of said firm as experts in giving said reports.

After such reasonable efforts, the Registrant has been unable to obtain Arthur Andersen LLP's written consent to the incorporation by reference of such financial statements. Accordingly, the Registrant has omitted such consent in reliance upon Rule 437a under the Securities Act of 1933.

Because Arthur Andersen LLP has not consented to the incorporation by reference of the financial statements, Plan participants may not be able to recover against Arthur Andersen LLP under Section 11 of the Securities Act of 1933 for any untrue statements of a material fact contained in such financial statements or any omissions to state a material fact required to be stated therein.

Events arising out of the conviction of Arthur Andersen LLP of one count of obstruction of justice arising from the government's investigation of Enron Corporation, as well as the volume of civil lawsuits filed against it, have adversely affected the ability of Arthur Andersen to satisfy claims, if any, arising from its provision of auditing services to the Registrant, including claims that may arise out of Arthur Andersen's audit of the Registrant's consolidated financial statements, which are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement.