### **UNITED STATES** SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

### FORM 8-K

**CURRENT REPORT** PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE **SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934** 

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): September 13, 2005

### **NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC.**

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter) 1-9608

(Commission

File Number)

Delaware (State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)

> 10 B Glenlake Parkway Suite 600 Atlanta, Georgia (Address of Principal Executive Offices)

36-3514169

(IRS Employer Identification No.)

30328 (Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, Including Area Code: (770) 407-3800

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions (see General Instruction A.2. below):

o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)

o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))

o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

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#### Item 2.05. Costs Associated with Exit or Disposal Activities.

To fuel sustainable growth in sales, earnings and cash flow, Newell Rubbermaid Inc. (the "Company") today announced a global initiative referred to as Project Acceleration, a three-year plan to strengthen and transform its portfolio. In connection with Project Acceleration, on September 13, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Company approved a three-year restructuring program, commencing January 1, 2006, designed to reduce manufacturing overhead to advance plans for achieving best cost position (the "Restructuring Program").

The Restructuring Program includes the closure of approximately one-third of the company's current 80 manufacturing facilities. The implementation and execution of the Restructuring Program is expected to result in cumulative restructuring charges totaling between \$350 and \$400 million (\$295-\$340 million after tax), beginning with approximately \$220-\$250 million (\$185-\$210 million after tax) in 2006. Specifically, in connection with this program, the Company expects to incur approximately \$140 to 160 million in employee-related costs, including severance, pension and other termination benefits; approximately \$150 to \$175 million in non-cash asset related costs, and approximately \$40 to \$60 million in other associated costs, including contract termination fees. Approximately 60% of the restructuring costs are expected to be cash charges. Annualized savings from the Restructuring Program are projected to exceed \$120 million upon conclusion of the program.

#### Item 2.06. Material Impairments.

As disclosed in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K, the Company conducts its annual test of impairment for goodwill and other indefinite-lived intangible assets in the third quarter. The Company also tests for impairment if events or circumstances occur subsequent to the Company's annual impairment tests that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount. The Company performs the annual impairment testing in the third quarter because it coincides with its annual strategic planning process for all of its businesses.

The annual strategic planning meeting provides a forum for executive management to review changes recommended by division and group management in the long-term strategy of the individual businesses and approve specific initiatives. At the planning session, division management teams present their long-term vision for the business and recommend changes in response to internal and external factors, which may impact the valuation of long-lived assets, including goodwill, other intangible assets, and fixed assets. Additionally, these meetings are used to discuss the current business environment and outlook, as well as overall brand strategy.

Subsequent to the recent planning meetings, the Company conducted its impairment testing of indefinite-lived intangible assets, giving consideration to underlying strategic and economic changes in the business. Additionally, the Company conducted its testing of other long-lived assets for impairment in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards (SFAS) No. 144, "Accounting for the Impairment or Disposal of Long-Lived Assets."

The results of the impairment testing were reviewed and discussed with the Board of Directors, which agreed with management's recommendations and concluded on September 13, 2005 that the impairment charges described below are required under generally accepted accounting principles.

#### Testing Approach

#### Goodwill

The goodwill impairment test requires that a company estimate the fair value of the business enterprise at the reporting unit level, that is, the operating segment or one reporting level below the operating segment. The fair value of a reporting unit was estimated using discounted cash flows. The discounted cash flows were estimated utilizing various assumptions regarding future revenue and expenses, working capital, terminal value, and discount rates. The underlying assumptions used were consistent with those used in the strategic plan. If the fair value of the reporting unit was less than its carrying amount at the valuation date, an impairment loss was recognized to the extent that the implied fair value of the goodwill within the reporting unit was less than the recorded amount of goodwill.

#### Other Indefinite-Lived Intangible Assets, primarily Trademarks and Tradenames

The impairment test for other indefinite-lived intangible assets, primarily trademarks and tradenames (intangible assets), requires that a company determine the fair value of the intangible asset. Generally, the fair value of the intangible assets was calculated using discounted cash flows associated with the underlying intangible asset. The discounted cash flows were estimated utilizing various assumptions regarding future revenue and expenses, working capital, terminal value, and discount rates. The underlying assumptions used were consistent with those used in the strategic plan. The fair value of the intangible asset was then compared to the carrying value. If the fair value of the intangible asset was less than its carrying amount, an impairment charge was recorded.

#### Other Long-Lived Assets

In accordance with SFAS No. 144, the Company evaluated if there were impairment indicators present related to its fixed assets and other long-term assets. If impairment indicators were present, future cash flows related to the asset group were estimated. The sum of the undiscounted future cash flows attributable to the asset group was then compared to the carrying amount of the asset group. The cash flows were estimated utilizing various assumptions regarding future revenue and expenses, working capital, and proceeds from asset disposals on a basis consistent with the strategic plan. If the carrying amount exceeded the sum of the future undiscounted future cash flows, the Company discounted the future cash flows using a risk-free discount rate and recorded an impairment charge as the difference between the discounted cash flows and the carrying value of the asset group. Generally, the Company performed its testing of the asset group at the product-line level, as this is the lowest level for which identifiable cash flows are available.

As a result of the impairment testing described above, the Company recorded a noncash impairment charge in the third quarter of approximately \$35 million, primarily related to goodwill and indefinite and long-lived intangible assets, in the United Kingdom business in the Company's Home Fashions segment. The Company's United Kingdom home fashions business was previously classified in the "fix" portfolio of the Company's business and continues to face economic challenges in its region, especially as retailers have continued to move to direct product sourcing from the Far East, and the Company is currently exploring alternatives for several of its product lines. As a result, management revised the estimated fair value of the business, specific trademarks and certain long-lived assets and determined that impairment exists on the trademarks and long-lived assets identified as well as the goodwill for the business.

The Company cannot predict whether certain events might occur that would adversely affect the reported value of the remaining goodwill and other identifiable intangible assets. Such events may include, but are not limited to, strategic decisions made in response to economic and competitive conditions, the impact of the economic environment on the Company's customer base, or a material adverse change in its relationship with significant customers. Additionally, increases in the risk adjusted rate could result in additional impairment charges.

#### Forward-Looking Statements.

The statements in this Current Report on Form 8-K that are not historical in nature constitute forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements relate to information or assumptions about the effects of the Restructuring Program, earnings and earnings growth, cash flow, cash expenditures, restructuring, impairment and other charges, costs and cost savings, and management's plans, projections and objectives for future operations and performance. These statements are accompanied by words such as "expect," "project," "estimate," and similar expressions. Actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, the Company's dependence on the strength of retail economies in various parts of the world; competition with numerous other manufacturers and distributors of consumer products; major retailers' strong bargaining power; changes in the prices of raw materials used by the Company; the Company's ability to develop innovative new products and to develop, maintain and strengthen our end-user brands; the Company's ability to expeditiously close facilities and move operations in the face of foreign regulations and other impediments; the Company's ability to complete strategic acquisitions; the Company's ability to improve productivity and streamline operations; the Company's ability to complete strategic acquisitions; the Company's ability to integrate previously acquired businesses; the risks inherent in the Company's foreign operations and those factors listed in the Company's 2005 second quarter Form 10-Q, including Exhibit 99.1 thereto, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure.

Attached as Exhibit 99.1 is a copy of the Company's press release, dated September 15, 2005, announcing Project Acceleration, including the Restructuring Program, as well as the impairment charges discussed above. Such information is furnished pursuant to Item 7.01 of Form 8-K. Consequently, it is not deemed "filed" for the purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section. It may only be incorporated by reference in another filing under the Exchange Act or Securities Act of 1933 if such subsequent filing specifically references this Form 8-K.

The press release contains non-GAAP financial measures. For purposes of Securities and Exchange Commission Regulation G, a "non-GAAP financial measure" is a numerical measure of a registrant's historical or future financial performance, financial position or cash flows that excludes amounts, or is subject to adjustments that have the effect of excluding amounts, that are included in the most directly comparable measure calculated and presented in accordance with GAAP in the statement of income, balance sheet or statement of cash flows of the issuer; or includes amounts, or is subject to adjustments that have the effect of including amounts, that are excluded from the most directly comparable measure so calculated and presented. Operating and statistical measures and certain ratios and other statistical measures are not non-GAAP financial measures. For purposes of the definition, GAAP refers to generally accepted accounting principles in the United States. Pursuant to the requirements of Regulation G, the Company has provided, as a part of the press release, a reconciliation of each of the non-GAAP financial measures to the most directly comparable GAAP financial measure.

The Company has used the financial measures that are included in the press release for several years, both in presenting its results to stockholders and the investment community and in its internal evaluation and management of its businesses. The Company's management believes that these measures — including those that are "non-GAAP financial measures" — and the information they provide are useful to investors since these measures:

- enable investors and analysts to compare the current non-GAAP measures with the corresponding non-GAAP measures used in the past, and
- permit investors to view the Company's performance using the same tools that Company management uses to evaluate the Company's past performance, reportable business segments and prospects for future performance and to gauge the Company's progress in achieving its stated goals.

The Company's management believes that diluted earnings per share from continuing operations, excluding impairment charges, is also helpful to investors because it provides meaningful perspective on the current underlying performance of the Company's continuing operations. The Company's management believes that diluted earnings per share from continuing operations, excluding restructuring charges, is helpful to investors because it provides information with respect to earnings per share related to the Company's continuing operations after completion of the Restructuring Program.

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While the Company believes that these non-GAAP financial measures are useful in evaluating the Company, this information should be considered as supplemental in nature and not as a substitute for or superior to the related financial information prepared in accordance with GAAP. Additionally, these non-GAAP financial measures may differ from similar measures presented by other companies.

#### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c)	Exhibits.	
	Exhibit Number	Description
	99.1	Press Release, dated September 15, 2005, issued by Newell Rubbermaid Inc.

#### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC.

Date: September 15, 2005

By: /s/ Ronald L. Hardnock

Ronald L. Hardnock Vice President – Corporate Controller EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No.

99.1

Description

Press Release, dated September 15, 2005, issued by Newell Rubbermaid Inc.



#### NEWELL RUBBERMAID ANNOUNCES GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO FUEL SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Three-Year Strategic Growth Plan to Result in After-Tax Charges of \$295 to \$340 Million

Expected Annualized Savings to Exceed \$120 Million by 2008

Company Remains On-Track for Strong 2005 Earnings Performance and Provides 2006 Guidance

**ATLANTA, September 15, 2005** — To fuel sustainable growth in sales, earnings and cash flow, Newell Rubbermaid (NYSE: NWL) today announced Project Acceleration, a three-year global initiative to strengthen and transform its portfolio.

#### Through Project Acceleration, Newell Rubbermaid will:

- 1. Increase investment in new product development, brand building and marketing
- 2. Reduce manufacturing overhead to advance plans for achieving the best cost position
- 3. Strengthen the company's portfolio of businesses

Joseph Galli, chief executive officer of Newell Rubbermaid, said, "Our goal has always been to position Newell Rubbermaid for sustainable growth through powerful brands and innovative new products. Project Acceleration will help us achieve our goal through increasing investments in our top-tier brands and reducing manufacturing overhead to improve our cost competitiveness."

The cost of implementing the three-year program is expected to result in cumulative restructuring charges totaling between \$350 and \$400 million (\$295 to \$340 million after tax), beginning with approximately \$220 to \$250 million (\$185 to \$210 million after tax) in 2006. Approximately 60% of the restructuring costs will be cash charges. Annualized savings are projected to exceed \$120 million upon conclusion of the program in 2008, representing an average two-year cash payback and an estimated after-tax rate of return of 40%. Approximately \$100 million of the savings are expected to benefit gross margin, with the remaining \$20 million benefiting SG&A expense.

#### The major elements of Project Acceleration are:

- 1. Increase investment in new product development, brand building and marketing
  - Ø The company intends to fuel its global growth initiatives through additional investments in its leadership platforms. Specifically, the company will increase spending on consumer marketing, research & development and international growth opportunities. Spending is expected to increase approximately \$40 million in 2006 and \$150 million by the end of Project Acceleration in 2008. These investments will enable Newell Rubbermaid to accelerate its "virtuous cycle" by introducing innovative new products backed by power brands to support premium pricing in the marketplace, in turn, funding demand creation, yielding funds to fuel the entire cycle again.

Newell Rubbermaid Inc. Atlanta, GA

Securities Listed NYSE Common Stock (Symbol: NWL)

#### www.newellrubbermaid.com

#### Jesse Herron

Vice President Investor Relations 10B Glenlake Parkway, Suite 600 Atlanta, GA 30328 Phone: 770-407-3994 Fax: 770-407-3983

#### Nancy de Jonge Davis

Vice President Corporate Communications 10B Glenlake Parkway, Suite 600 Atlanta, GA 30328 Phone: 770-407-3994 Fax: 770-407-3983

#### **Cari Davidson**

Manager Public Relations 10B Glenlake Parkway, Suite 600 Atlanta, GA 30328 Phone: 770-407-3994 Fax: 770-407-3983



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## Newell Rubbermaid

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

- Ø The company will accelerate the deployment of its Newell Marketing Excellence (NWL MAX) program, a training and development initiative to enhance its global marketing and new product development competencies. NWL MAX will enable the company to improve critical marketing and commercialization processes to drive internal growth.
- 2. Reduce manufacturing overhead to advance plans for achieving the best cost position
  - Ø Project Acceleration includes the closure of approximately one-third of the company's current 80 manufacturing facilities. The company estimates these initiatives will impact more than 5,000 employees. Upon completion of the plan, the company's geographic footprint will be optimized.
  - Ø The company will continue to focus on its productivity program, Newell Operational Excellence, to continuously improve quality, service and cost. The company remains committed to an internal goal to generate 5% in productivity savings every year.
- 3. Strengthen the company's portfolio of businesses
  - Ø The company continues to invest in and build a focused group of leadership platforms, referred to as "Invest" platforms, capable of collectively generating 3% to 5% long-term sustainable sales growth. These platforms are Office Products, Tools and Hardware, Rubbermaid Commercial Products, Rubbermaid Foodservice Products, Premium Kitchen, Personal Care and Juvenile products. The company is also executing initiatives to improve the performance of its Window Fashions, Little Tikes and Rubbermaid Home Products platforms.
  - Ø The company will continue to evaluate strategic accretive acquisitions to strengthen its leadership platforms. In July 2005, the company announced it reached a definitive agreement to acquire DYMO, a global leader in designing, manufacturing and marketing on-demand labeling solutions. The acquisition is subject to applicable regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions and is expected to close by year-end. The company expects the acquisition to be neutral to earnings in 2005 and approximately \$0.06 per share accretive in 2006.

#### 2005 Outlook

Rubbermaid

The company expects diluted earnings per share from continuing operations for the full year 2005 to be in the range of \$1.43 to \$1.48. This range excludes a non-cash impairment charge of approximately \$35 million (\$0.13 per share), related to the United Kingdom business in the company's Home Fashions segment. This outlook also does not include total net losses reported as discontinued operations, expected to be approximately \$90 million. The company continues to expect internal sales to decline in the range of 1% to 3% for the full year 2005, primarily reflecting the company's strategic decision to exit \$200 million in annual revenue of low-margin product lines and the volume impact related to its pricing strategy.

For the third quarter 2005, the company expects diluted earnings per share from continuing operations to be in the range of \$0.33 to \$0.37. This range excludes a non-cash impairment charge of approximately \$35 million (\$0.13 per share), related to the United Kingdom business in the company's Home Fashions segment. The company continues to expect internal sales to decline 0% to 2%.

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Newell Rubbermaid Inc. Atlanta, GA

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**News Release** 

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## Newell Rubbermaid

#### SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

#### A reconciliation of the 2005 earnings outlook is as follows:

Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations (as reported):	Full Year \$1.30 - \$1.35	<u>Third Quarter</u> \$0.20 - \$0.24
Impairment charges	\$0.13	\$0.13
Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations (excluding charges):	\$1.43 - \$1.48	\$0.33 - \$0.37

For the full year 2005, the company continues to expect net cash from operating activities to be in the range of \$625 to \$675 million. Expenditures for property, plant and equipment are expected to be in the range of \$125 to \$150 million and dividends are expected to be approximately \$230 million for the full year 2005.

#### 2006 Outlook

The company will provide earnings per share guidance on a GAAP basis and a proforma basis, which excludes the charges associated with Project Acceleration. For the full year 2006, the company expects diluted earnings per share from continuing operations to be in the range of \$1.50 to \$1.60. This outlook includes the impact of the DYMO acquisition and does not include approximately \$220 to \$250 million (\$185 to \$210 million after tax) of restructuring charges expected to be incurred in 2006. For the full year 2006, the company expects diluted earnings per share from continuing operations, on a GAAP basis, to be in the range of \$0.77 to \$0.87.

#### A reconciliation of the 2006 earnings outlook is as follows:

Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations (as reported):	Full Year \$0.77 - \$0.87	
Restructuring charges	\$0.68 - \$0.77	
Diluted earnings per share from continuing operations (excluding charges):	\$1.50 - \$1.60	
For the full year 2006, the company expects internal sales growth of $-1\%$ to $1\%$ highlighted by internal sales		

For the full year 2006, the company expects internal sales growth of -1 % to 1%, highlighted by internal sales growth from its leadership platforms of 2% to 4%. The company expects cash from operations to be in the range of \$550 to \$600 million, reflecting a use of approximately \$100 million of cash related to Project Acceleration. Expenditures for property, plant and equipment are expected to be in the range of \$125 to \$150 million and dividends are expected to be approximately \$230 million for the full year 2006.

#### NEWS RELEASE

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# Newell Rubbermaid

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005

#### Analyst Day

The company will host its Analyst Day September 22, 2005, at the Equitable Center, located at 787 Seventh Ave., New York, N.Y. Those interested in attending should contact Newell Rubbermaid's Investor Relations Department at (770) 407-3994 or via email at investor.relations@newellco.com to obtain registration instructions. The event will also be web cast and the link will be located on the investor relations section of the company's website at www.newellrubbermaid.com.

#### **Caution Concerning Forward-Looking Statements**

The statements in this press release that are not historical in nature constitute forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements relate to information or assumptions about the effects of Project Acceleration, internal sales, income/(loss), earnings per share, operating income or gross margin improvements, capital and other expenditures, cash flow, dividends, restructuring, impairment and other charges, potential losses on divestiture, costs and cost savings and the value thereof, debt ratings, and management's plans, projections and objectives for future operations and performance. These statements are accompanied by words such as "expect," "project," "will," "enable," "estimate," and similar expressions. Actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in the forward-looking statements. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those suggested by the forwardlooking statements include, but are not limited to, our dependence on the strength of retail economies in various parts of the world; competition with numerous other manufacturers and distributors of consumer products; major retailers' strong bargaining power; changes in the prices of raw materials used by the company; our ability to develop innovative new products and to develop, maintain and strengthen our end-user brands; our ability to expeditiously close facilities and move operations in the face of foreign regulations and other impediments; our ability to implement successfully information technology solutions throughout our organization; our ability to improve productivity and streamline operations; our ability to complete strategic acquisitions (including DYMO); our ability to integrate previously acquired businesses; the risks inherent in our foreign operations and those factors listed in the company's 2005 second quarter Form 10-Q, including Exhibit 99.1 thereto, filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### **Non-GAAP Financial Measures**

This release contains non-GAAP financial measures within the meaning of Regulation G promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Included in this release is a reconciliation of these non-GAAP financial measures to the most directly comparable financial measures calculated in accordance with GAAP.

#### About the Company

Newell Rubbermaid Inc. is a global marketer of consumer and commercial products with 2004 sales of \$6.5 billion and a powerful brand family including Sharpie<sup>®</sup>, Paper Mate<sup>®</sup>, Waterman<sup>®</sup>, EXPO<sup>®</sup>, Rubbermaid<sup>®</sup>, Calphalon<sup>®</sup>, Graco<sup>®</sup>, Goody<sup>®</sup>, BernzOmatic<sup>®</sup>, IRWIN<sup>®</sup> and LENOX<sup>®</sup>. The company is headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., and has over 31,000 employees worldwide.

This press release and additional financial information about the company are available on the company's website at www.newellrubbermaid.com.

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