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NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC
Form 11-K
June 28, 2002

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20549

FORM 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT
PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d)
OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

(Mark One):

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 [NO FEE REQUIRED, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 7, 1996].

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2001

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 [NO FEE REQUIRED].

For the transition period from _____ to _____.

COMMISSION FILE NUMBER: 1-4188

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

RUBBERMAID RETIREMENT PLAN FOR COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED ASSOCIATES

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

NEWELL RUBBERMAID INC.
29 EAST STEPHENSON STREET
NEWELL CENTER
FREEPORT, ILLINOIS 61032

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Financial Statements. The following financial statements and schedules are filed as part of this annual report and appear immediately after the signature page hereof:

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1. Report of Independent Auditors
2. Report of Independent Public Accountants
3. Statements of Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits
4. Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits
5. Notes to Financial Statements

Exhibits. The following exhibits are filed as a part of this annual report:

Exhibit 23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP

Exhibit 23.2 Notice Regarding Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP

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

RUBBERMAID RETIREMENT PLAN
FOR COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED
ASSOCIATES

Date: June 28, 2002

/s/ Tom Nohl

Tom Nohl, Member,
Plan Administrative Committee

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Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

Financial Statements

December 31, 2001 and 2000 and year ended December 31, 2001

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Report of Independent Auditors

To the Plan Administrator of
Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for
Collectively Bargained Associates

We have audited the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits of the Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates as of December 31, 2001, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan at December 31, 2001, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

/s/ Ernst & Young LLP

Chicago, Illinois
June 14, 2002

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THIS IS A COPY OF THE AUDIT REPORT PREVIOUSLY ISSUED BY ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP IN CONNECTION WITH THE PLAN'S FILING ON FORM 11-K FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2000. THIS AUDIT REPORT HAS NOT BEEN REISSUED BY ARTHUR ANDERSEN IN CONNECTION WITH THIS FILING ON FORM 11-K. SEE EXHIBIT 23.2 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

To the Plan Administrator of Rubbermaid
Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates:

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for plan benefits of the Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

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(the "Plan") as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for plan benefits for the year ended December 31, 2000. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for plan benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2000 and 1999, and the changes in its net assets available for plan benefits for the year ended December 31, 2000, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.

/s/ Arthur Andersen LLP

ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
June 22, 2001

Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

	DECEMBER 31	
	2001	

ASSETS		
Interest in Newell Rubbermaid Master Trust	\$95,893,843	\$
Contributions receivable:		
Employer	3,241,969	
Participant	462,170	
Total receivables	3,704,139	
Net assets available for benefits	\$99,597,982	\$
	=====	=

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See accompanying notes.

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Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Plan Benefits

Year ended December 31, 2001

ADDITIONS	
Contributions:	
Employer	\$ 3,241,969
Participant	462,170

Total additions	3,704,139
DEDUCTIONS	
Benefits paid to participants	9,173,360
Net investment loss from Newell Rubbermaid Master Trust	6,561,069
Administrative expenses	79,809

Total deductions	15,814,238

Net decrease	(12,110,099)
Net assets available for benefits - Beginning of year	111,708,081

Net assets available for benefits - End of year	\$ 99,597,982
	=====

See accompanying notes.

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Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

Notes to Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2001

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates (the Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Summary Plan Description for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

GENERAL

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The Plan is a defined contribution profit sharing plan covering collectively-bargained associates of the United Steelworkers of America, Rubber/Plastic Industry Conference Local 302, located at the Wooster, Ohio facility of Newell Rubbermaid, Inc. (the Company). Participation in the Plan begins upon completion of one year of eligibility service, which is defined as 1,000 hours of service with the Company within a 12-month period. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

CONTRIBUTIONS

Annual contribution rates are defined by the Plan. During 2001 and 2000, the Company contributed to the Plan an amount equal to 18% of the eligible compensation earned by Plan participants. A participant must be employed by the Company at the end of the Plan year or complete at least 1,000 hours during the Plan year in order to be eligible to receive a Company contribution, subject to limited exceptions. Employees may elect to receive 25% of the Company contribution as a cash bonus payment or have that amount, up to the maximum amount permitted by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), contributed to the Plan as a salary deferral contribution.

PARTICIPANT ACCOUNTS

Separate accounts are maintained for each participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions and an allocation of: (a) the Company's contribution, and (b) Plan earnings, and is charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

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Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (CONTINUED)

VESTING

Participants are immediately vested in their salary deferral contributions, plus actual earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company contribution portion of their accounts is based upon a seven-year graduated vesting schedule. A participant becomes 100% vested after completing seven years of service. Upon death, disability or attainment of age 65, participants become 100% vested regardless of years of service. Forfeited balances of terminated participants' nonvested accounts are reallocated among the accounts of eligible participants. Forfeitures of \$87,199 remained unallocated at December 31, 2001.

PARTICIPANT LOANS

Participants may borrow from their accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance. Loan terms range from one to five years. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate based on prevailing market conditions. Interest rates on loans outstanding at December 31, 2001, ranged

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from 5.0% to 10.5%. Principal and interest are paid ratably through monthly payroll deductions.

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

A participant is eligible to receive a distribution upon termination of employment, death, disability, or retirement. The form of payment may be a lump-sum cash payment, periodic payments in such amounts as elected by the participant, or a combination thereof.

INVESTMENT OPTIONS

All investments are participant-directed. Participants may elect to direct contributions to the Plan to one or more of the Plan's eleven investment funds. Participants may change their investment options or reallocate their investment balances on a daily basis.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF PRESENTATION

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

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Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

INVESTMENT VALUATION AND INCOME RECOGNITION

Except for investment contracts which are valued at contract value, the Plan's investments are stated at fair value, which equals the quoted market price on the last business day of the Plan year. The participant loans are valued at their outstanding balances, which approximate fair value.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

All normal costs and expenses of administering the Plan and trust are paid by Plan participants. Any cost resulting from a participant obtaining a loan or requesting a distribution or in-service withdrawal may be borne by such participant or charged to the participant's individual account.

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

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RECLASSIFICATION

Certain amounts in the 2000 financial statements have been reclassified to conform with the 2001 presentation.

3. INVESTMENTS

Prior to October 1, 2000, investments of the Plan were commingled with the investments of the Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for investment purposes only. Collectively, such funds comprised the Rubbermaid Master Trust with Fidelity Management Trust Company as the trustee. On October 1, 2000, the Rubbermaid Retirement Plan merged into the Newell Long-Term Savings and Investment Plan (the Newell Plan). Plan assets of the Rubbermaid Retirement Plan of \$187,022,012 were transferred from the

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Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

3. INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

Rubbermaid Master Trust to the trustee of the Newell Plan, J.P. Morgan/American Century. Assets of \$132,211,951 remained in the Rubbermaid Master Trust as assets of the Newell Plan. The Newell Plan transferred additional assets of \$40,544,433 to the Rubbermaid Master Trust. Effective October 1, 2000, the Rubbermaid Master Trust was renamed the Newell Rubbermaid Master Trust (the Master Trust).

Each participating plan has an undivided interest in the Master Trust. At December 31, 2001 and 2000, the Plan's interest in the net assets of the Master Trust was approximately 36.5% and 40.2%, respectively. Investment income and expenses are allocated among the participating plans based upon the value of the participant accounts attributed to each plan.

The Master Trust investments at December 31 are as follows:

	2001	2000
	-----	-----
Investments at fair value:		
Newell Rubbermaid Inc. common stock	\$ 919,239	\$ 2,041
Mutual funds	50,895,181	64,348
Loans to participants	1,065,192	1,117
Short-term investment fund	58,398	
	-----	-----
	52,938,010	67,507
Investments at contract value:		
Stable Value Fund	209,519,597	198,828
	\$262,457,607	\$266,336

Investment income for the Master Trust for the year ended December 31, 2001, is as follows:

Interest and dividends
 Net realized and unrealized appreciation (depreciation) in the fair
 value of investments determined by quoted market price:
 Newell Rubbermaid Inc. common stock
 Mutual funds

\$12
 (10

 \$ 2
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Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

4. STABLE VALUE FUND

The Master Trust holds an investment in the Stable Value Fund, which invests primarily in guaranteed investment contracts and synthetic guaranteed investment contracts. The fund also includes a short-term interest fund in the amount of \$6,990,464 at December 31, 2001. The fund is included in the financial statements at contract value as reported by the respective insurance companies. Contract value represents contributions made, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses.

The crediting interest rate for the fund was 5.75% and 6.20% as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, respectively. The fund's blended rate of return for the year was 5.86% in 2001.

The crediting rates are reset periodically and are based on the market value of the underlying portfolio of assets backing these contracts. Inputs used to determine the crediting rate include each contract's portfolio market value, current yield-to-maturity, duration (i.e., weighted-average life), and market value relative to contract value. All contracts have a guaranteed rate of 0% or higher.

The contract values and fair values of investment contracts included in the Stable Value Fund as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, are as follows:

	CONTRACT VALUE		FAIR VALUE	
	2001	2000	2001	2000
Guaranteed Investment Contracts	\$ 57,375,436	\$ 85,483,538	\$ 59,135,791	\$
Synthetic Guaranteed Investment Contracts	145,153,697	72,587,726	149,107,629	
	-----	-----	-----	-----
	\$202,529,133	\$158,071,264	\$208,243,420	\$1
	=====	=====	=====	=====

Included in the fair value of synthetic guaranteed investment contracts as of December 31, 2001 and 2000, are \$17,759,647 and \$0, respectively, related to wrapper contracts which guarantee the contract value of the synthetic guaranteed investment contracts for participant-initiated withdrawal events.

5. PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions of the collective bargaining agreement and ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

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Rubbermaid Retirement Plan for Collectively Bargained Associates

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

All expenses related to the Trustee and recordkeeping in connection with the operation of the Plan are paid by the Plan. All other costs are paid out of Plan assets, except to the extent the Administrative Committee elects to have such expenses paid directly by the Company.

As of December 31, 2001, the Plan owned 33,342 shares of Newell Rubbermaid Inc. common stock.

7. TAX STATUS

The Plan has received a determination letter from the IRS dated November 20, 1996, stating that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. Subsequent to the issuance of the determination letter, the Plan was amended and restated. Once qualified, the Plan is required to operate in conformity with the IRC to maintain its qualification. The plan administrator believes the Plan is being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and, therefore, believes the Plan, as amended, is qualified and the related trust is tax exempt.

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INDEX TO EXHIBITS

(23) CONSENTS OF EXPERTS AND COUNSEL

23.1 Consent of Ernst & Young LLP

23.2 Notice regarding Consent of Arthur Andersen LLP