

## Company Information

### Headquarters

W.W. Grainger, Inc.  
100 Grainger Parkway  
Lake Forest, IL 60045-5201  
847.535.1000 Phone  
847.535.0878 Fax  
www.grainger.com

### Investor Relations Contacts

Nancy A. Hobor  
Senior Vice President, Communications and Investor Relations  
847.535.0065  
William D. Chapman  
Director, Investor Relations  
847.535.0881

### Media Contact Information

Ernest L. Duplessis  
Director, External Communications  
847.535.4356  
Michael E. McGrew  
Regional Communications Director, Eastern Region  
847.535.4196  
Erin Ptacek  
Regional Communications Director, Western Region  
949.255.1368  
Robb M. Kristopher  
Manager, External Communications  
847.535.0879

### Analyst Coverage

#### Electrical Equipment

Buckingham Research – Edward Wheeler  
Cathay Financial – John Baliotti  
CIBC World Markets Corp. – Robert McCarthy  
J.P. Morgan – C. Stephen Tusa  
Lehman Brothers – Daniel Whang  
Merrill Lynch – John Inch  
Morgan Stanley – Scott Davis

#### Industrial Distribution

BB&T Capital Markets – Holden Lewis  
FTN Midwest Research – Mark Koznarek  
Robert W. Baird & Co. – David Manthey  
Morgan, Keegan & Company, Inc. – Brent Rakers  
William Blair & Co., L.L.C. – Jeffrey Germanotta

### Annual Meeting

The 2006 Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held at the company's headquarters in Lake Forest, Ill., at 10:00 a.m. CDT on Wednesday, April 26, 2006.

### Expected Earnings Release Dates

First Quarter	April 17, 2006
Second Quarter	July 17, 2006
Third Quarter	October 16, 2006
Fourth Quarter	January 25, 2007

### Issuance of Preferred Share Purchase Rights

Grainger has adopted a shareholder rights plan, under which there is outstanding one preferred share purchase right for each outstanding share of Grainger common stock. Under certain circumstances – after a person or a group (unless exempt under the plan) acquires or announces a tender offer for 15 percent or more of Grainger's common stock – each right would entitle the holder to purchase, at the then-current exercise price, stock and/or other securities or assets of the company. The rights expire on May 15, 2009, unless earlier redeemed. The rights do not have voting or dividend rights and, until they become exercisable, have no dilutive effect on the earnings of Grainger.

### Auditors

Ernst & Young LLP  
Sears Tower  
233 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, IL 60606-6301

### Common Stock Listing

The company's common stock is listed on the New York and Chicago stock exchanges under the trading symbol GWW.

### Transfer Agent, Registrar and Dividend Disbursing Agent

Instructions and inquiries regarding transfers, certificates, changes of title or address, lost or missing dividend checks, consolidation of accounts and elimination of multiple mailings should be directed to:

Computershare Investor Services  
P.O. Box 43023  
Providence, RI 02940-3023  
Telephone 781.575.2879

### Dividend Direct Deposit

Shareholders of record have the opportunity to have their quarterly dividends electronically deposited directly into their checking, money market or savings accounts at financial institutions that participate in the automated clearinghouse system.

Shareholders of record who take advantage of dividend direct deposit will have their Grainger dividend payments deposited into the specified accounts on the dividend payment dates.

Shareholders who are interested in taking advantage of this service or would like more information on the program should contact Computershare Investor Services.

### Forward-Looking Statements

Throughout this Fact Book are forward-looking statements under the federal securities laws. The forward-looking statements relate to the company's expected future financial results and business plans, strategies, and objectives and are not historical facts. They are often identified by qualifiers such as "aims," "anticipated," "believes," "estimated," "expects," "goals," "intends," "looks to," "opportunity," "plans," "potential," "projected," "should," "targeting," "will" or similar expressions. There are risks and uncertainties whose outcome could cause the company's results to differ materially from what is projected.

Factors that may affect forward-looking statements include the following: higher product costs or other expenses; a major loss of customers; increased competitive pricing pressure on the company's businesses; failure to develop or implement new technologies or other business strategies; the outcome of pending and future litigation and governmental proceedings; changes in laws and regulations; facilities disruptions or shutdowns; disruption in transportation services; natural and other catastrophes; unanticipated weather conditions and other difficulties in achieving or improving margins or financial performance.

Trends and projections could also be affected by general industry and market conditions, gross domestic product growth rates, general economic conditions including interest rate and currency rate fluctuations, employment levels, global and other conflicts, and other factors.

### Trademarks

ACKLANDS – GRAINGER, FOR THE ONES WHO GET IT DONE, GRAINGER, the GRAINGER CATALOG DESIGN, the GRAINGER logo, GRAINGER REBUILDING AMERICA, GRAINGER SHIPPING BOX DESIGN, GRAINGER.COM, GRAINGER.COM.MX, and TU SOLICIÓN EN SUMINISTROS INDUSTRIALES are trademarks or service marks of W.W. Grainger, Inc., which may be registered in the United States and/or other countries.

AW DIRECT, BEN MEADOWS, GEMPLER'S, LAB SAFETY, LAB SAFETY SUPPLY, LSS, and RAND MATERIALS HANDLING EQUIPMENT are trademarks or service marks of Lab Safety Supply, Inc. which may be registered in the United States and/or other countries.

All other trademarks and service marks are the property of their respective owners.



**Grainger customers have different needs, from service technicians looking for a repair part to facilities maintenance supervisors in search of the right light bulb, but they have one thing in common: when they need a product, they often need it fast. With nearly 600 branches across North America, catalogs, call centers and Web sites offering more than 800,000 products, Grainger provides solutions customers need when and where they need them.**

## Grainger at a Glance

### Headquarters

W.W. Grainger, Inc.  
100 Grainger Parkway  
Lake Forest, IL 60045-5201  
847.535.1000  
www.grainger.com

### Key Facts

**2005 Sales:** \$5.5 billion

**Number of employees:** 16,732

**Number of branches:** 589 throughout  
North America

**Stock Trading:** The company's common stock  
is listed on the New York and Chicago stock  
exchanges under the trading symbol GWW.

