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SERVICEMASTER CO  
Form 8-K  
August 25, 2004

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 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): August 25, 2004

THE SERVICEMASTER COMPANY  
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Delaware -----	1-14762 -----	36-3858106 -----
(State or Other Jurisdiction of Incorporation)	(Commission File Number)	(I.R.S. Employer Identification Number)

3250 Lacey Road, Suite 600, Downers Grove, Illinois -----	60515 -----
(Address of Principal Executive Offices)	(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (630) 663-2000  
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Not Applicable  
(Former Name or Former Address, if Changed Since Last Report)

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):

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a - 12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a - 12)
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d - 2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d(b))
- Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e - 4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e - 4(c))

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Item 5.04. Temporary Suspension of Trading Under Registrant's Employee Benefit Plans.

On August 25, 2004, The ServiceMaster Company ("ServiceMaster") received notice, as required by Section 101(i)(2)(E) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, from its Equity Plans Administrative Committee that the ServiceMaster Profit Sharing and Retirement Plan (the "Plan") is changing the recordkeeper of the Plan effective October 1, 2004. In order to facilitate the transition to a new recordkeeper, all participants in the Plan will temporarily be prohibited from directing or diversifying investments in their Plan accounts (including transfers into or out of the ServiceMaster common stock fund), receiving distributions from the Plan and obtaining Plan loans. This period during which Plan participants will be unable to exercise these rights qualifies as a "blackout period" under Regulation BTR promulgated pursuant to Section 306(a)(3) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and is expected to begin on September 24, 2004 and to end during the week ending October 8, 2004. Notice of the blackout period has been distributed to Plan participants.

During the blackout period and for a period of two years after the ending date of the blackout period, holders of ServiceMaster common stock and other interested persons may obtain, without charge, the actual beginning and ending dates of the blackout period by sending a written request to The ServiceMaster Company, attention Corporate Secretary, 3250 Lacey Road, Suite 600, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515.

Notice of this blackout period is also being given to ServiceMaster's directors and executive officers simultaneously with the filing of this report.

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SIGNATURES

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

THE SERVICEMASTER COMPANY

Date: August 25, 2004

By: /s/ Jim L. Kaput

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Jim L. Kaput  
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

