

HOWARD JOHN L  
 Form 4  
 March 26, 2003  
 SEC Form 4

<p align="center"><b>FORM 4</b></p> <p>[ ] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).</p>	<p><b>UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION</b>                  Washington, D.C. 20549</p> <p><b>STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP</b></p> <p>Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940</p>	<p align="center">OMB APPROVAL</p> <hr/> <p>OMB Number: 3235-0287                  Expires: January 31, 2005                  Estimated average burden hours per response. . . . . 0.5</p>	
<p>1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  <b>Howard, John L.</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(Last) (First)                  _____                  (Middle)</p> <p><b>100 Grainger Parkway</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(Street)  <b>Lake Forest, IL 60045-5201</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(City) (State)                  _____                  (Zip)</p>	<p>2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol</p> <p><b>W.W. Grainger, Inc.                  GWW</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>3. I.R.S. Identification Number of Reporting Person, if an entity (voluntary)</p>	<p>4. Statement for (Month/Day/Year)</p> <p><b>03/26/2003</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>5. If Amendment, Date of Original (Month/Day/Year)</p>	<p>6. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer                  (Check all applicable)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)</p> <p>Description <b>Senior Vice President and General Counsel</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>7. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person  <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person</p>

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)		4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed Of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)			5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
			Code	V	Amount	A/D	Price			
<b>Common Stock</b>	<b>03/26/2003</b>		<b>F (1)</b>		<b>787</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>\$45.12</b>	<b>31,713</b>	<b>D</b>	

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)**

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/	4. Transaction Code (Instr.8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or	6. Date Exercisable(DE) and Expiration Date(ED) (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr.5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported
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			Day/ Year)	Disposed Of (D)		DE	ED	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		Transactio (Instr.4)
				Code	V						
Option	\$43.50					4/26/2003	4/25/2010	Common Stock	14,390	\$	14,390
Option	\$43.50					(02)	4/25/2010	Common Stock	2,160	\$	2,160
Option	\$37.50					4/25/2004	4/24/2011	Common Stock	20,000	\$	20,000
Option	\$37.50					4/25/2007	4/24/2011	Common Stock	1,440	\$	1,440
Option	\$54.61					4/24/2005	4/23/2012	Common Stock	25,000	\$	25,000

Explanation of Responses:

(01) Payment of tax liability relating to the vesting of restricted stock.  
 (02) Exercisable in four equal annual installments beginning 4/26/2001.

By:

/s/ K. S. Kirsner

as attorney-in-fact

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date:

03/26/2003

SEC 1474 (9-02)

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).  
 \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).  
 Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.  
 Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.

**Additional Information Reported For This Form**

Name and Address of Reporting Person* <b>Howard, John L.</b>	Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>W.W. Grainger, Inc. GWW</b>	Statement for (Month/Day/Year) <b>03/26/2003</b>
(Last) (First) (Middle) <b>100 Grainger Parkway</b>		
(Street) <b>Lake Forest, IL 60045-5201</b>		
(City) (State) (Zip)		

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Know all by these presents, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints each of Kenneth S. Kirsner and Aimee Nolan, signing singly, the undersigned's true and lawful attorney-in-fact to:

(1) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned Forms 3, 4, 5, and 144 relating to equity securities of W.W. Grainger, Inc. (the "Company") in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder and Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933;

(2) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete any such Form 3, 4, 5, or 144 and timely file the same with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and any stock exchange or similar authority; and

(3) take any other action of any type whatsoever in connection with the foregoing which, in the opinion of the attorney-in-fact, may be of benefit to, in the best interest of, or legally required by, the undersigned, it being understood that the documents executed by the attorney-in-fact on behalf of the undersigned pursuant to this Power of Attorney shall be in such form and shall contain such terms and conditions as the attorney-in-fact may approve in his or her discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to each attorney-in-fact full power and authority to do and perform any and every act and thing whatsoever requisite, necessary or proper to be done in the exercise of any of the rights and powers herein granted, as fully to all intents and purposes as the attorney-in-fact might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that the attorney-in-fact, or his or her substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue of this Power of Attorney and the rights and powers herein granted.

The undersigned acknowledges that the attorneys-in-fact, in serving in such capacity at the request of the undersigned, is not assuming, nor is the Company assuming, any of the undersigned's responsibilities to comply with Section 16 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Rule 144 under the Securities Act of 1933.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect until the undersigned is no longer required to file Forms 3, 4, 5, and 144 with respect to the undersigned's holdings of and transactions in equity securities of the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of the 22nd day of August, 2002.

/s/ John L. Howard