FORM 3

## UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

## INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

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Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*  WILLIAMS DAVID PATRICK | 2. Date of Event<br>Requiring Statement<br>(Month/Day/Year)<br>03/05/2004 |                    | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol ROTO-ROOTER INC [ RRR ]                      |   |                                 |   |   |  |
|--|---|--------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| (Last) (First) (Middle) SUITE 2600, 255 EAST 5TH STREET          |   |                    | Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable)  Director 10% Owner |   |                                 | 5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year)    |   |  |
|  |   |                    | X Officer (give title Other (specify below) below)                                       |   |                                 | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) |   |  |
| (Street)   |   |                    | Vice President &   | CFO   | X                               | ,   | y One Reporting Person                                      |  |
| CINCINNATI OH 45202  |   |                    |  |   |                                 | Form filed by<br>Reporting P                                | y More than One<br>erson                                    |  |
| (City) (State) (Zip)   |   |                    |  |   |                                 |   |   |  |
|  | Table I - Non   | -Derivat           | ive Securities Beneficiall   | y Owned   |                                 |   |   |  |
| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)                                  |   |                    | 2. Amount of Securities<br>Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)                                 | 3. Ownersh<br>Form: Direct<br>or Indirect (<br>(Instr. 5) | ct (D) (Instr. 5)               |   |   |  |
| Capital Stock  |   |                    | 8,000  | D   |                                 |   |   |  |
| Capital Stock  |   |                    | 800  | I   | IRA                             |   |   |  |
| (  |   |                    | e Securities Beneficially (<br>unts, options, convertible                                |   | s)                              |   |   |  |
| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)                       | 2. Date Exercisable ar<br>Expiration Date<br>(Month/Day/Year)             |                    | and 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)          |   | 4.<br>Conversion<br>or Exercise | 5.<br>Ownership<br>Form:                                    | 6. Nature of Indirect<br>Beneficial Ownership<br>(Instr. 5) |  |
|  | Date<br>Exercisable   | Expiration<br>Date | n<br>Title   | Amount<br>or<br>Number<br>of<br>Shares                    | Derivative                      | Direct (D)<br>or Indirect<br>(I) (Instr. 5)                 |   |  |
| stock option (right to buy w/ tandem tax witholding right)       | 05/15/1998  | 05/15/2005         | Capital Stock  | 1,500   | 32.19                           | D   |   |  |
| stock option (right to buy w/ tandem tax witholding right)       | 05/19/1999  | 05/19/2007         | 7 Capital Stock  | 2,000   | 35.94                           | D   |   |  |
| stock option (right to buy with tandem tax withholding right     | 05/20/1998  | 05/20/2006         | capital stock  | 3,000   | 38.75                           | D   |   |  |
| stock option (right to buy with tandem tax withholding right     | 03/04/2000  | 03/04/2008         | capital stock  | 4,000   | 39.13                           | D   |   |  |
| stock option (right to buy with tandem tax withholding right     | 05/17/2001  | 05/17/2009         | capital stock  | 12,000  | 32.19                           | D   |   |  |
| stock option (right to buy with tandem tax withholding right     | 05/20/2004 <sup>(1)</sup>   | 05/20/2012         | capital stock  | 9,000   | 36.9                            | D   |   |  |
| stock option (right to buy with tandem tax withholding right     | 11/19/2003 <sup>(2)</sup>   | 05/19/2003         | 3 capital stock  | 10,000  | 35.85                           | D   |   |  |

## **Explanation of Responses:**

- 1. 9,000 granted, exercisable 4,500 currently, 2,250 on 11/20/04, 2,250 on 11/20/05

David P. Williams

03/10/2004

\*\* Signature of Reporting Person

Date

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

- $^{\star}$  If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5 (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.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB Number.