

ECOLAB INC  
Form 8-K  
October 21, 2004

**UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 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): **October 21, 2004**

**ECOLAB INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Delaware**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation)

**1-9328**  
(Commission File Number)

**41-0231510**  
(IRS Employer Identification  
No.)

**370 Wabasha Street North, Saint Paul, Minnesota**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**55102**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: **651-293-2233**

**(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):

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- o Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  
  - o Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  
  - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  
  - o Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13a-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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Item 2.02. Results of Operations and Financial Condition.

On October 21, 2004, Ecolab Inc. ( Ecolab ) announced earnings for the third quarter ended September 30, 2004. A copy of the News Release issued by Ecolab in connection with this report under Item 2.02 is attached as Exhibit (99) and incorporated by reference herein. Ecolab also will publish the News Release, including the supplemental information contained therein, on its website under the heading Investor Information.

Item 9.01. Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(c) Exhibits.

The following exhibit is furnished pursuant to Item 12 of Form 8-K and should not be deemed to be filed under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

(99) Ecolab Inc. News Release dated October 21, 2004

SIGNATURE

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

ECOLAB INC.

Date: October 21, 2004

By: /s/Timothy P. Dordell  
By: Timothy P. Dordell  
Its: Assistant Secretary

EXHIBIT INDEX

| <b>Exhibit No.</b> | <b>Description</b>                              | <b>Method Of Filing</b>        |
|--------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| (99)               | Ecolab Inc. New Release dated October 21, 2004. | Filed herewith electronically. |