

INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF
SECURITIESFiled 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* <u>RUBIN CARL</u> (Last) (First) (Middle) <u>2200 OLD GERMANTOWN ROAD</u> <u>MAIL CODE: LEGL</u> (Street) <u>DELRAY FL 33445</u> (City) (State) (Zip)	2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year) <u>03/01/2004</u>	3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <u>OFFICE DEPOT INC [ODP]</u>	
		4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) Director 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) Other (specify below) <u>EVP/Chief Merchandising Officer</u>	5. If Amendment, Date of Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 4)	2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4)	3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
<u>Restricted Stock</u>	<u>40,000⁽¹⁾</u>	<u>D</u>	

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)		3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4)	4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	5. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5)	6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5)
	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date				
<u>Option (Right to Buy)</u>	<u>(2)</u>	<u>03/01/2011</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>37,500</u>	<u>17.72</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>Option (Right to Buy)</u>	<u>03/01/2005⁽³⁾</u>	<u>03/01/2014</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>17.72</u>	<u>D</u>
<u>Option (Right to Buy)</u>	<u>03/01/2007</u>	<u>03/01/2014</u>	<u>Common Stock</u>	<u>80,000</u>	<u>17.72</u>	<u>D</u>

Explanation of Responses:

1. Restricted stock, 50% will vest on 9/1/2005 and the remaining 50% of which will vest on 3/1/2007.
2. Vest on earlier achievement of stock price performance target of 25%-50% increase or 5 years from the date of the grant.
3. Each option is exercisable with respect to one-third of the shares on each annual anniversary of the date of the grant.

Remarks:

By: Brian Dan, Attorney-in-Fact for: 03/05/2004

** Signature of Reporting Person Date

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 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.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

The undersigned, Carl Rubin, does hereby constitute and appoint David C. Fannin, Brian D. Dan and Anne Zuckerman, or any one of them acting alone, as agent and attorney-in-fact with full power and authority to: (1) execute for and on behalf of the undersigned, in the undersigned's capacity as an officer and/or director of Office Depot, Inc. (the "Company"), Forms 3, 4 and 5 in accordance with Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules thereunder; (2) do and perform any and all acts for and on behalf of the undersigned which may be necessary or desirable to complete and execute any such Forms 3, 4 or 5 and timely file such form 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 such 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 such 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 such attorney-in-fact may approve in such attorney-in-fact's discretion.

The undersigned hereby grants to such 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 undersigned might or could do if personally present, with full power of substitution or revocation, hereby ratifying and confirming all that such attorney-in-fact, or such attorney-in-fact's substitute or substitutes, shall lawfully do, have previously done, or cause to be done by virtue of this Power of Attorney and the rights and powers herein granted.

The undersigned acknowledges that the foregoing attorney-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. It shall at all times remain the responsibility of the undersigned to inform the Company through its attorneys of any transactions which are required to be reported.

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto executed this Power of Attorney as of this 3 day of March, 2004.

Signed: /s/ Carl Rubin
Carl Rubin