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COLGATE PALMOLIVE CO Form 424B3 May 16, 2005

Pricing Supplement No. 12 dated May 10, 2005 (To Prospectus dated November 13, 2001 and Prospectus Supplement dated November 13, 2001)

Rule 424(b)(3) File No. 333-72340

Colgate-Palmolive Company

Medium-Term Notes - Fixed Rate

Series E

We are hereby offering to sell Notes having the terms specified below to you with the assistance of Citigroup Global Markets Inc. and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. (the "Agents"), each acting as principal, at a fixed initial public offering price of 100% of the principal amount.

Principal Amount: \$100,000,000 Trade Date: May 10, 2005

Issue Price: 100%

Interest Rate: 5.18%

Stated Maturity Date: May 15, 2017

Original Issue Date: May 17, 2005

Net Proceeds to Colgate: \$99,750,000

Agent's Discount or Commission: \$250,000

CUSIP Number: 19416 QDG 2

Interest Payment Dates: May 15 and November 15 of each year, commencing on November 15, 2005

Day Count Convention:

[X] 30/360 for the period from May 17, 2005 to May 15, 2017 [_] Actual / 360 for the period from _____ to _____.

[_] Actual / Actual for the period from to

Redemption: The Notes may be redeemed at the option of Colgate prior

to the stated maturity date. See "Other Provisions -

Optional Redemption" below.

Optional Repayment: The Notes are not subject to repayment at the option of

the holder thereof prior to the stated maturity date.

Currency:

Specified Currency: US Dollars Minimum Denomination: \$1,000

Original Issue Discount: [_] Yes [X] No

Total amount of OID: Yield to Maturity: Initial Accrual Period:

Form: [X] Book-entry [_] Certificated

[X] Other provisions:

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Optional Redemption: Colgate may at its option elect to redeem the Notes, in whole or in part, in increments of \$1,000 or any multiple of \$1,000, upon not less than 30 nor more than 60 days' prior written notice on May 15, 2008 and on each Interest Payment Date thereafter at a redemption price equal to 100% of the aggregate amount of Notes to be redeemed, together with any accrued interest to the redemption date.

The Agents have severally, and not jointly, agreed to purchase from us, and we have agreed to sell to the Agents, the principal amount of Notes set forth opposite their respective names.

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Amount of Notes

Use of Proceeds:

The net proceeds from the sale of the Notes will be used by Colgate to retire commercial paper which was issued by Colgate for general corporate purposes and working capital. As of May 10, 2005, Colgate's outstanding commercial paper had a weighted average interest rate of 2.6315% with maturities ranging from 1 day to 51 days.

Legal Matters:

Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP, New York, New York has acted as counsel for Colgate. Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP has acted as counsel for the Agents.

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