



04 Biodegradable bags of all sizes

When we last looked at the biodegradable bag range from Becausewecare back in *ReNew 112*, their range was limited to a few sizes. Things are a little different now, so we thought it time for an update.

Becausewecare has a huge range of bags and a number of other items that are biodegradable. Their rubbish bags range from 10 litre bin liners through to 240 litre wheelie bin liners. There are also three types of checkout bags, including a heavy duty version, and fashion, nappy and dog poo bags.

Other items in the range include replacement 'foam' trays for supermarket packed goods, produce bags and disposable cutlery. For the garden, there's weed mat, 75mm and 100mm seedling pots (just plant the seedling along with its pot) and the soon-to-be-released BotanicBag. There are even lightweight disposable gloves which, like all of the above, are made from biodegradable and compostable plant-based plastics.

While Becausewecare tends to sell in bulk, and some items are special order, the prices are great for this type of material. For example, 30 litre bin liners are \$128 inc GST for twelve 25-piece rolls—that's around 43 cents per bag.

Available from Because We Care,
309 Fitzgerald Rd, Derrimut VIC 3030,
ph: (03) 9931 6888,
www.becausewecare.com.au



05 Ditch the pressure tank

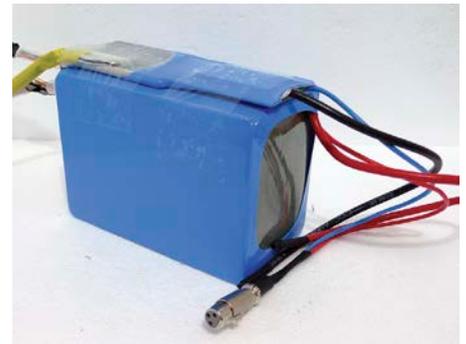
Most mains-pressure domestic pumping systems require a pressure tank to even out the stop-start pulses of the pump when it is cycled. Without a tank, the pump cycles rapidly, resulting in uneven water pressure and premature pump failure.

However, pressure tanks have a few drawbacks, including requiring replacement of the internal rubber bladder every few years. Although this is cheaper than replacing the pump, it is still a maintenance and cost item that can be avoided.

The Flojet VSD (variable speed drive) pump combines a Hall-effect pressure sensor with a variable speed motor drive to produce a constant output pressure regardless of the flow rate, up to the pump's maximum rate. The DC version of these pumps comes in two sizes (13.5 and 16.3L/m maximum flow) and works from any input voltage from 10 to 29 volts, so is suitable for 12 and 24 volt DC systems. Other features include soft start, thermal overload, over-current and reverse polarity protection.

If you need more flow than the Flojet models can provide or require an AC pressure pump, the Grundfos CME range can provide over 100 litres per minute using a variable speed AC drive system.

Prices for the Flojet VSD are \$501.60 and \$561; the Grundfos CME pumps range from \$1584 to \$2587. Available from Pump Warehouse,
ph: 1300 661 417, rod@pumpwarehouse.com.au,
www.pumpwarehouse.com.au



06 Lithium batteries ready to go

Unlike lead-acid batteries, lithium batteries can be a little daunting for the first-time user. They need careful charging and discharging regimes to prevent damaging them and making up battery packs from individual cells is not for everyone.

However, if you have a rechargeable device such as an electric bike, lawnmower or even a small renewable energy system that needs a new lithium battery, Ping batteries might have a suitable pack.

Ping has packs ranging from 24V, 10Ah through to 60V, 30Ah. The pack is heatshrink sealed and they come complete with the BMS already installed. They also come with a free charger. Charger and BMS upgrades are available, depending on the pack you are buying, and chargers are also available separately.

All of the Ping battery packs use LiFePO₄ cells for reliability and safety, as this type of cell will not catch fire, even when punctured.

Prices range from US\$219 through to \$1385 and charger upgrades range from \$33 to \$66. Shipping can be a little steep though, generally costing around \$160.

For more information and to buy direct, email pingping227@hotmail.com or go to www.pingbattery.com