



DON'T PAY TOO MUCH STOP PRICE GOUGING

The President and California have declared a state of emergency due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19). This means businesses can't raise their prices too much.

What is price gouging?

When a business raises prices by more than 10% after the government declares a state of emergency.

Is price gouging illegal?

Yes, it is illegal up to 30 days after an emergency is declared by any local, state, or federal government.

Report Price Gouging—it is a Crime. Call the local District Attorney's office or the State Attorney General and report the business. A business can be sued for price gouging.

What things cannot be "price gouged"?

- food and drinks
- emergency cleanup items and services
- emergency supplies like water, flashlights, radios, batteries, candles, blankets, soaps, diapers, toiletries
- medical supplies including prescription and nonprescription medications, bandages, antibacterial cleaners
- home heating oil
- building materials
- moving expenses, property storage, and towing services
- gas (gasoline, diesel)
- rent (residential housing rent)
- motel/hotel costs

If the business' costs went up, they may be able to raise their price more than 10%.

Special Rules

Medical and Emergency Supplies

Due to COVID-19 businesses can't raise prices more than 10% for medical and emergency supplies through September 4, 2020.

Construction, Repair, & Clean-up Services

These businesses can't raise prices more than 10% for 180 days. They can only raise prices more than 10% if their costs went up.

Rent Increases

For most tenants, rent can't be increased more than 10% for 30 days. Local or state rent control laws may also limit increases. Call the number below for free legal advice.

Evictions

During an emergency declaration period a landlord cannot evict you just to raise the rent. They also cannot charge the new tenant more than 10% paid by the prior tenant.

**For Free Legal Help,
Call 1-800-433-6251**