

# 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**