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# The Monthly Brief

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## SUMMER SALE SCAMS

Summer is officially here, which means door-to-door sales crews are also. But buyers beware—what they're selling isn't always legit.

### How it Works:

At your door is a visitor who has a great deal or limited time offer. A construction company or lawn service "doing business in your neighborhood." are common, but can be any service type. The great deal has an expiration date—take the offer now or miss the savings and typically involves a payment upfront.

Legit summer sales crews, some employing students, go door-to-door all across the country. They are trained in high-pressure tactics and are usually paid based on their sales. The illegitimate scams come from shady or unlicensed companies who offer shoddy work or skip out with the payment altogether.

### What you can do:

Consider not opening your door to anyone you're not expecting or don't know. If you do, be prepared with a refusal script like "I'm not interested, thank you". It's a short but polite way to end an unwanted conversation.

All "buy or lose out" pitches are designed to excite people into making a quick uninformed decision. If it happens to be something you want or need, always get competing offers from established and verified providers.

For more info on avoiding these and other home improvement scams visit the [AARP website](#).

\*AARP

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## More Amazon Scams



Scammers are creative and they love targeting Amazon customers. Here are some of their favorite and profitable scams happening now.

**Prime Membership Scams:** Unexpected calls/texts/emails warning of a costly membership fee or problem, and asking you to confirm or cancel. The objective is to get a payment, banking info, or account credentials. Amazon will never ask you to provide payment over the phone. Learn how to [identify real messages on the Amazon website](#).

**Account Suspension/Deletion Scams:** Calls/texts/emails with this urgent warning, asking you to click a link or verbally provide account verification info like payment methods and login credentials. Amazon will never ask you to provide your password or verify payment info over the phone or a third party website. Check the "message center" in your Amazon account to verify real communications.

**Only use the Amazon website** or mobile app to contact customer service, tech support or to make changes to your account. **Urgency is a Red Flag** and a favorite scammer tactic. Take time to independently verify any alert or warning. **Never pay over the phone**, Amazon will never ask for credit or gift card info in a phone call. Always look

If you suspect an Amazon scam or receive a communication (call, text, or email) that you think may not be from Amazon, please report it to the company directly on their website at [amazon.com/reportascam](https://amazon.com/reportascam). They'll let you know if it's legit or a scam.

\*Amazon

## FLORIDA PRICE GOUGING APP



Hurricane season hits its peak this month and we're highlighting the availability of the "No Scam Price Gouging App" from [Attorney General Ashley Moody](#). The app allows consumers to report suspected price gouging typically seen before and after a natural disaster or state emergency, directly to the AG's office in real time. The app also offers the ability to attach photos and copies of receipts directly from a mobile device.

Price gouging is a [crime in Florida](#) and happens when anyone unjustifiably increases the cost of essential commodities in advance of, or after a declared emergency.

In addition to being used to report price gouging during states of emergency related to hurricanes, No Scam has been continually updated for use during other states of emergency—most notably the health state of emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic. Consumers were able to report outrageous price increases on essential commodities related to COVID-19 via the app

For tips on how to better report price gouging, read the Attorney General's [Tips for Avoiding Price Gouging and Gathering Gouging Evidence](#).

To learn more about price gouging visit the [website of the Florida Attorney General](#). You can also download the 2023 Hurricane Preparedness Guide in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

No Scam Price Gouging App can be downloaded for free through Apple and Android stores by searching "No Scam".

\*MyFloridaLegal.com