Three contracts a restaurant signs without reading

Slice · Toast · Clover — US list prices, three years at 600 orders a month, and what leaving on month 14 costs.

600 orders a month is 20 a day — an ordinary Friday-and-Saturday pizzeria. It is our worked volume, not a vendor figure, and it moves only Slice's line: Toast and Clover charge a flat monthly that does not care how busy you are. Software, hardware and per-order fees only — card processing (2.90% + 30¢ at Slice, 2.49% + 15¢ at Toast, 2.3% + 10¢ at Clover) and tax are on top.

01 SLICE — the toll on every order

$39/mo + $3.00 an order · month to month

36 months × $39	$1,404
21,600 orders × $3.00	$64,800
Three years, Online Growth	**$66,204**
the per-order line as a share of that bill	97.9%
Complete Growth ($99/mo + $2.00 + $1,000 setup), three years	$47,764
Exit at month 14 (no minimum term, no exit fee)	**$0 in fees**

The one agreement of the three you can walk out of — and the one where the fee grows with your best week. On a $25 pizza $3.00 is 12% of the ticket; the regulars who phone you every Friday pay it too. Ask in writing what survives cancellation: the site and menu live inside Slice's system.

02 TOAST — the register

$219/mo + $1,153 kit · 2-year term

36 months × $219	$7,884
Countertop kit, paid once (yours, not leased)	$1,153
Three years, Toast Core	**$9,037**
the website, at Growth, for the same three years	$21,961
Exit at month 14: 14 × $219 (software left in the term)	**$3,066**
Pay-as-You-Go exit at 14 months: $150 a month left	**$2,100**

The checkout states a 2-year software agreement that then renews a year at a time unless either side gives 30 days' written notice. Toast's terms say the service may only be used on approved Toast hardware — the register and the software are one object — and the website is not in the $219 plan.

03 CLOVER — the lease

$179/mo for 36 months, hardware inside

36 months × $179, Starter	**$6,444**
hardware (Station Solo, drawer, printer)	inside the fee
against Toast Core, same three years	$2,593 cheaper
Standard $239 / Advanced $354, three years	$8,604 / $12,744
Buy the hardware instead: $1,799 + $89.95/mo	$5,037
Exit at month 14 (22 months left, or a buyout)	**$3,938+**

Clover's own pricing FAQ: subscriptions are non-cancelable and ineligible for refunds. At the end of 36 months you buy the equipment or return it; do neither and the subscription continues at the same monthly charge. It asks for 30 days' notice before the term ends, and terms vary by the bank or reseller selling it.

ASK FOUR QUESTIONS BEFORE THE SALESPERSON LEAVES

get every answer in writing

1. **What is the minimum term, and what do I owe if I leave on month 14?** Not "can I cancel" — the figure, on a date, in dollars, with the clause it comes from.
2. **Which line on this bill grows when I have a good Friday?** A flat monthly is a ceiling; a per-order fee is a rate that rises with success.
3. **What do I keep if I leave — the site, the menu, the photos, the customer list, the domain?** A site that dies with the subscription is a rental, not an asset.
4. **Who can raise the price, by how much, and what happens if I do nothing at the term's end?** The escalator and the auto-renewal decide year three. Diarise the notice date, not the end date.

NOW IF YOU ALREADY SIGNED — FIVE STEPS, NO LAWYER

ends in a dated plan

1. **Find the term, not the invoice.** The agreement carries the start date, length, renewal rule and notice period. Photograph those pages.
2. **Work out the exit number yourself.** Months left × the monthly on Toast, the full remaining balance on Clover, nothing on Slice — then compare it with what switching saves.
3. **Diarise the notice date, 60 days out.** Both ask 30 days' written notice before the term ends; Clover's subscription runs on if the term ends with nothing done.
4. **Ask for the numbers in writing.** Remaining balance, buyout, what happens to the site and the menu data, the notice date. A ticket is a record.
5. **Do not just stop paying.** Cancelling a card does not cancel a term; it moves the dispute to a balance owed. Ask for a buyout or a downgrade, in writing, before the next charge.

The part that does not need a contract:
a page you own — $49 once (page, QR poster, files) or $199 once (site, menu, printed posters, posts). $0 a month, $0 an order.

Sources, read 11 November 2026: slice.com/pricing — Online Growth $39/mo + $3.00 a card order, Complete Growth $99/mo + $2.00 + $1,000 implementation, no fee under $10, 2.90% + 30¢, month to month; pos.toasttab.com/pricing — Basic $69 / Core $219 / Growth $578 a month, $1,153 kit, Pay-as-You-Go 3.09-3.69% + 15¢, 2-year software agreement renewing yearly on 30 days' notice, $150 a month left on the $0 plan; clover.com/pricing/restaurant — Starter $179 / Standard $239 / Advanced $354 a month for 36 months, or $1,799 + $89.95 a month, 2.3% + 10¢; clover.com/pricing — "Subscriptions are non-cancelable and ineligible for refunds", buy-or-return, auto-extension, terms vary by the selling institution. US list prices before tax and card processing; your agreement can differ. Not legal or accounting advice.