

Best of NeoCon 2026 FAQs

Q: What's the deadline for Best of NeoCon 2026 submissions?

A: Entry submission dates and entry fees as follows:

<u>Entry Deadlines</u>	<u>Fees</u>	<u>Date @ 11:59 p.m. EDT</u>
Early	\$900.00	March 1 through March 31
Standard	\$1000.00	April 1 through April 30
Final	\$1100.00	May 1 through May 20
Business Impact	+\$500.00	March 1 through May 20

Q: How do I pay for my entry?

A: Payment is by credit card via [Best of NeoCon Submission Platform](#). Non-U.S.-based companies may pay by ACH/bank direct deposit.

Q: Can I lock in early-bird pricing without fully completing my submission form?

A: Yes. Fill in as much information as possible (or use placeholder text in * required fields and company logo as placeholder images, if photography is not available), then simply pay for your entry to lock in your early entry fee. You may make changes to your entry **through May 20**.

Q: Can manufacturers schedule appointment times for in-person judging?

A: No. Jury teams judge products based on their location in The Mart.

Judging times:

Friday, June 5

Floor 10, 11, 14	8:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Lunch break	12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Floor 10, Floor 6	1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Floor 1,3	1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, June 6

7th floor ALL Booths 7-1000 to 7-10500 (includes all Illuminate lighting entries)	9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Jury Category Scoring & Deliberation	12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Finalists for Best of Competition reviewed	3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 7

Business Impact Finalists	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
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Q: May I enter a product that was at NeoCon last year, but was not entered into Best of NeoCon 2025?

A: Manufacturers may enter products in the competition that are **NEW to the U.S. market since June 1, 2025 and were NOT entered into the Best of NeoCon in June 2025**. NO PROTOTYPES are permitted. Products should have SKU numbers and be available to ship by Dec. 1, 2026.

Q: Can manufacturers with showrooms located at Fulton Market and other buildings in Chicago participate in Best of NeoCon?

A: No. Entrants must be official NeoCon 2026 tenants/exhibitors via The Mart floors.

Q: How many products may a manufacturer enter? Can the same product be entered into more than one category?

A: The number of entries permitted is unlimited. Each manufacturer may enter as many products into the competition in as many [Product Categories](#) as they wish. If one product is entered into an additional category, an additional entry fee must be paid, and an additional digital entry must be completed.

Q: If I choose to enter my product in more than one category, do I need to redo the submission form for each entry?

A: Yes, each submission requires its own entry form and payment. For convenience, submission forms may be duplicated in the portal for the same product and the additional category selected. Answers to the questions should be customized to the category entered. Remember to label photos to match each category.

Q: What if I don't know which category to enter my product into?

A: PLEASE READ the descriptions of the [Product Categories](#) visible in the portal as categories are selected, or access the [Product Categories Glossary](#) and choose the category that best suits. If the Best of NeoCon team thinks your product is miscategorized, we will recategorize it into the proper category AND contact you via email or to discuss changing the category.

Q: How do I know if I win a Best of NeoCon Award? Will I be called?

A: Winners will **NOT** be called. Winners are announced at the Best of NeoCon Awards breakfast on Monday, June 8, at 7:30 a.m. at the Presentation Studio, The Mart, Floor 2. However, if a product is one of the 5 FINALISTS for Best of Competition, then marketing and presenter contact names (provided on the entry form) will be called on Saturday afternoon with a time for all the jury teams to return to view the product submission. Product presenters must show the nominated product to all judges.

Q: How do I know when I can expect the juror team to visit my showroom/booth?

A: *See judging times above.*

Q: Do jurors visit all showrooms/booths to judge products in person? Does someone have to present the product(s)?

A: Jurors will conduct in-person evaluations of all products on June 5, 6, and on June 7 for Business Impact finalists. Judging is conducted BY FLOOR at designated times (*see above*). Please arrange for product presenters to be in the showroom/booth to present the product when the jury arrives. Manufacturers will have 7 to 15 minutes to present their products to the jury.

Q: Can I go back into an entry and edit/make changes after I finalize and pay for it?

A: Yes, changes can be made to entries until the final deadline on May 20. If changes are made after, the entry reverts to incomplete, and we will review the update and mark it as COMPLETE. No changes after June 4th.

Q: Can I get a receipt for my entry fee?

A: After the credit card check-out occurs or an ACH payment is processed, a receipt will be auto-emailed. Invoicing is not available.

Q: When does the Business Impact Awards (BIA) jury review products?

A: By Friday, June 5: Finalists will be notified via email and/or phone call from BestofNeoCon@TheMart.com.

Sunday, June 7: The business media and facility manager jury will visit finalists' showrooms or booths between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and select the winners on Sunday after 2:00 p.m.

Monday, June 8: BIA winners are announced at the Best of NeoCon Awards Breakfast at 7:00 a.m. in the Presentation Studio, The Mart, Floor 2.

Q: How many Best of NeoCon Awards are given out?

A: The Competition anticipates one Gold Award and one Silver Award per category. However, the jury reserves the right to give only a Gold or only a Silver or no award at all in any given category. There are also Innovation and Sustainability Awards, plus one Best of Competition Award—entrants cannot submit an entry directly for these awards.

Q: How are products considered for the People's Choice Awards?

A: After the Best of NeoCon Awards ceremony presentation on Monday, June 8, Winners will receive a link/QR code for People's Choice voting. NeoCon attendees can then visit the winning products in the showrooms and vote online through the Gallery of Winners.

Q: When will winners be announced for the People's Choice Awards?

A: Five People's Choice winners will be announced at the BIFMA breakfast and across NeoCon's social media channels on Wednesday, June 10.