
2026 EDGE Awards Scoring Rubric

The EDGE Awards recognize excellence in craftsmanship, innovation, professionalism and industry leadership. To support a fair and consistent judging process, each eligible entry will be independently evaluated by five industry judges using the criteria below.

Judges score each criterion on a scale of **1–10** using the scoring guidance provided. Each score is then applied to the criterion's assigned weight to produce a **final weighted score out of 100**.

Judge Scoring Scale

Score Scoring Guidance

- 1–2 Does Not Meet Expectations** – Little or no evidence that the entry satisfies the criterion.
- 3–4 Below Expectations** – Some relevant qualities are demonstrated, but execution or supporting evidence is limited.
- 5–6 Meets Expectations** – Competent execution with adequate evidence demonstrating the criterion.
- 7–8 Exceeds Expectations** – Strong execution with clear evidence of quality, skill or impact.
- 9 Exceptional** – An exceptionally strong example that demonstrates a high level of excellence.
- 10 Outstanding** – Sets a benchmark for excellence and represents the highest level of achievement in the criterion.

1. Project Awards

Applies to: Residential Excellence, Commercial Excellence, Material Mastery – Quartz, Solid Surface, Natural Stone and Ultra Compact – and Outdoor Project Excellence.

Criterion	Weight	Definition
Design & Concept	20%	Evaluates the overall design vision, creativity and aesthetic impact of the project, including how effectively the surfacing contributes to the finished space.
Craftsmanship & Finish	30%	Evaluates fabrication and installation quality, including seams, edge profiles, transitions, fit, polish, alignment and overall finished execution.
Technical Difficulty	20%	Evaluates the complexity of the fabrication and installation, the challenges encountered and the level of skill and problem-solving required to successfully complete the work.
Material Use	20%	Evaluates how effectively the selected material's properties, characteristics and design potential were understood and used to enhance the project.
Photo & Presentation Quality	10%	Evaluates whether the photographs and supporting information clearly and professionally document the project and provide judges with sufficient information to assess the work.
TOTAL	100%	

Primary Tie-Breaker: Craftsmanship & Finish

2. Member Awards

Applies to: Countertop & Surface Manufacturer of the Year, Fabricator of the Year and Associate Member of the Year.

Criterion	Weight	Definition
Quality of Work / Service	30%	Evaluates demonstrated excellence and consistency in the nominee's fabrication, products, services or support, as appropriate to the award.
Professionalism	20%	Evaluates reliability, integrity, business practices, communication, customer or partner experience and

Criterion	Weight	Definition
		the professional standards demonstrated by the nominee.
Industry Contribution	25%	Evaluates contributions to the countertop and surfaces industry through education, mentorship, leadership, partnership, engagement or other meaningful involvement.
Impact	25%	Evaluates the measurable or demonstrated difference the nominee has made for customers, employees, partners, peers or the broader industry. References, testimonials and specific examples may be considered where provided.
TOTAL	100%	

Primary Tie-Breaker: Impact

3. Shop Safety & Excellence Award

This award is **peer-nominated only** and must be submitted by another company on the shop's behalf. The sponsoring company should document the nominee's safety program, training practices, shop conditions and safety record.

Criterion	Weight	Definition
Safety Program & Training	30%	Evaluates the strength and consistency of the shop's documented safety program, employee training, PPE practices, silica and dust-control measures and ongoing safety education.
Shop Conditions	25%	Evaluates cleanliness, organization, equipment condition and maintenance, material handling, workflow and the overall physical environment of the shop.
Safety Record & Culture	25%	Evaluates demonstrated safety performance and evidence that safety is embedded in company culture, including employee participation, accountability, incident prevention and continuous improvement.

Criterion	Weight	Definition
Operational Excellence	20%	Evaluates how effectively the shop combines safe practices with strong workflow, quality control, equipment management, employee development and professional operating standards.
TOTAL	100%	

Primary Tie-Breaker: Safety Record & Culture

4. Product Innovation Awards

Applies to: Product Innovation – Materials and Product Innovation – Tools. These awards are reserved for ISFA Associate Partners.

Criterion	Weight	Definition
Originality	30%	Evaluates how new, distinctive or meaningfully improved the product, material, tool, machine or technology is compared with existing industry solutions.
Impact on the Trade	30%	Evaluates the product's demonstrated or potential ability to improve fabrication quality, productivity, efficiency, safety, sustainability, design possibilities or other meaningful outcomes for fabricators.
Practical Value	25%	Evaluates real-world usefulness, relevance to fabricators, ease of adoption and the product's ability to solve a clearly identified industry need or problem.
Presentation	15%	Evaluates how clearly the submission explains what is new, the benefit it provides and the evidence supporting those claims, including photographs, examples or data where applicable.
TOTAL	100%	

Primary Tie-Breaker: Impact on the Trade

Tie-Breaker Procedure

If two entries finish with the same final weighted score, the higher score in the designated criterion will determine the winner:

- **Project Awards:** Craftsmanship & Finish
- **Member Awards:** Impact
- **Shop Safety & Excellence:** Safety Record & Culture
- **Product Innovation Awards:** Impact on the Trade

If the entries remain tied after the primary tie-breaker is applied, **the judging panel will conduct a final comparative review of the tied entries to determine the winner.**

Judge Independence & Conflicts of Interest

Five independent industry judges score each eligible entry. Judges are carefully selected and invited by ISFA based on their industry expertise, experience and ability to provide fair, unbiased evaluation.

ISFA's Committee Chair and CEO serve in a **process-oversight role only** and do not score entries. Any potential conflicts of interest are disclosed and managed to protect the integrity of the judging process.