

**1. *When is this year's deadline?***

**All ONLINE ENTRIES must be completed and uploaded in the appropriate Dropbox folder no later than end of day Friday, December 13, 2019.**

**2. *Do I have to use a professional photographer to take the photos?***

**No.** It is not required, but better quality photographs show the most detail and give a better impression overall. Remember, you are trying to convince a panel of judges that your entry should be selected as a winner, so even if you don't use a professional, use the best quality photos possible, particularly your "after" photos.

**3. *Do I have to include "before" photos or will "after" photos alone be sufficient?***

**"Before" photos are required.** It is not possible to see transformations if photographs of how the area looked prior to remodeling are not included. Get in the habit of taking "before" pictures at the beginning of every project. What began as an average project, just might turn out to be your best work. Also, taking your "before" and "after" photos from the same angle illustrates the dramatic transformation and helps the judges view the project's transition more effectively.

**4. *Do I have to get the Homeowner's Signature on the Official CotY Entry/Homeowner Release form for every entry?***

**Yes.** This form must be filled out for every entry and the homeowners must sign where indicated and verify the project cost.

**5. *Is my fee refundable if I decide not to enter the competition after receiving the packet?***

**No.** Once the ENTRY binder is purchased, **no refunds will be issued.** Entry fees Binders cannot be carried over to subsequent years, awards, and/or events.

**6. *How do I determine in which category to enter my project?***

Read the category criteria very carefully and don't forget to check out the Specialty categories that are very broad and cover unusual types of projects.

**7. *Can I find out if I have won an award prior to the Evening of Excellence?***

You will be notified whether you are a CotY Award winner or not. However, your winning category and/or placement will only be announced at the Evening of Excellence Awards Program to be held at the Westin Cleveland Downtown on March 13, 2020.