

Restricted Entry Interval (REI)

Restricted Entry Interval (REI) is the period of time after a pesticide has been applied that agricultural workers or anyone else **must not do hand labour tasks** in treated areas. The REI allows the pesticide residues and vapours to dissipate to safe levels for work to be done.

Hand labour tasks involve substantial worker contact with treated surfaces such as plants, plant parts or soil. Examples of these activities **include:**

- harvesting,
- detasseling,
- thinning,
- weeding,
- scouting,
- planting,
- mowing,
- roguing, and
- packing produce into containers in the field or greenhouse.

You can only do these tasks after the Restricted Entry Interval has passed.

An REI can range from 4 hours to several days. A pesticide label may state different REIs that are specific to a crop and post application task (e.g. thinning, scouting, harvesting). If the REI is not stated on a label, use a 12 hour REI.

Here are examples of REIs stated on pesticide labels:

Pesticide	Restricted Entry Interval
Matador:	24 hours (all crops)
Scala SC:	12 hours except 24 hours for hand-thinning on apples and for hand labour (training, tying, leaf pulling) on grapes
Switch 62.5 WG:	12 hours except 10 days for hand harvest and hand pruning on Saskatoon berries

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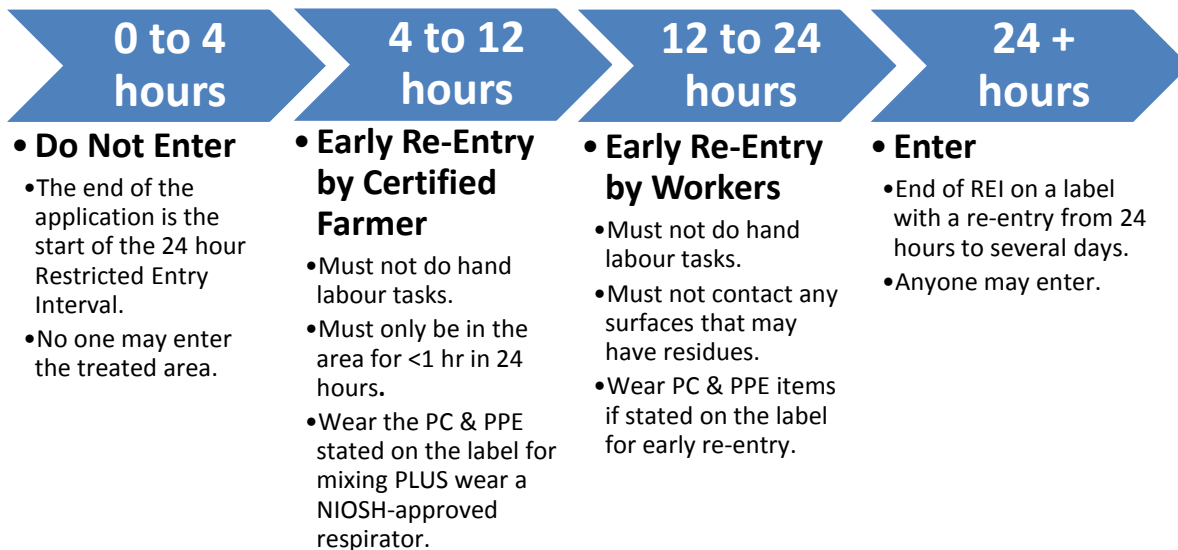
Early Re-Entry

Certified Farmers may need to re-enter a treated area to do short-term tasks before the end of an REI. In these cases, the Certified Farmer may re-enter 4 hours after the application wearing a NIOSH-approved respirator and any other protective clothing and the personal protective equipment (PC & PPE) stated on the label for mixing and loading. This Certified Farmer must not be in the treated area during the REI for more than a total of 1 hour in any 24 hour period.

Workers may re-enter after 12 hours and before the end of an REI if the worker does not do hand labour tasks and has no contact with surfaces that could have pesticide residues on them.

Certified Farmers should plan pesticide applications and work tasks so that no one needs to re-enter treated areas before the restricted entry interval has passed.

Below is an example of re-entry for a pesticide with a 24 hour REI:



Tell Farm Workers and Others of the REIs



Notify your farm manager, farm workers, scouts and others of the Restricted Entry Intervals. Everyone needs to know. One way to notify is to post signs, such as the example shown, at any main access points into the treated area. In addition to posting signs, keep spray records and REIs in a main location where they can be readily seen and read by farm workers or anyone else on the farm.