

Silverfish Information



Silverfish are primarily a nuisance, but they do consume small amounts of human food and contaminate it with their body scales and droppings. They will eat a wide variety of foods, such as rolled oats, dried beef, flour, starch, paper, cotton, sugar, glue, paste and linen. They can live long periods of time without food. At times they have damaged important books and documents, eating the glue and paste on the bindings.

Silverfish live and develop in damp, cool places, particularly in basements and laundry rooms. Their close relative, the **firebrat**, thrives best in very warm, moist places. They may be found around ovens, heating units, fireplaces, hot water pipes and in the attic. In apartments they may crawl along pipelines and through openings in the walls or floors from basements to rooms above. It is common to find them in large complexes or institutions with central steam or hot water heat systems. Silverfish hide during the day and come out at night to seek food and water.

Prevention: Reduce the moisture in basements, laundry rooms, bathrooms, shower stalls, etc. This may be easier said than done, especially in institutional settings. Seal cracks and crevices around moldings, pipes and cabinets. Vacuum regularly using a crevice tool to remove loose cellulose material from cracks. It will also help to clean out closets periodically and eliminate collections of magazines, papers and books.

Control: Occasionally silverfish may be found in homes in the Pacific Northwest. Usually after being transported in boxes and household goods. One or two treatments with common household Pesticides will normally solve the problem. In apartment buildings, offices and institutional setting it may be necessary to schedule periodic professional treatments.



For further information or to schedule service give us a call
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