



## SILVERFISH

### Characteristics

Silverfish are wingless insects silver to greyish in colour, have two long antennae, and three long appendages extending from the tip of the abdomen. They prefer warm, moist, dark areas and can live up to 2-1/2 years. They are active at night feeding on starches such as fabrics, cereals, and paste or glue from wallpaper, books, magazines and boxes, but can go without food for several months.

### Infestation

Silverfish live outdoors, but when building conditions are warm and damp they may move inside and adapt to the indoor environment. Once inside, they can be moved around on items transferred from one place to another (i.e., on boxes moved from damp basements or attics into main living areas). These nuisance insects are not a direct health concern, although the damp conditions that they favour may be.

### Before Treatment

1. Plan to be away for at least **6 to 8 hours** \* after application. This includes most pets\*. Fish tanks should be covered and the filter turned off. Plants are ok.
  - \* Small children 2 & under, pregnant women and people with respiratory or cardiac problems should be out **overnight** according to BC Ministry guidelines. Apply these same guidelines to special-needs pets.
2. The technician would appreciate clear access to the following areas:
  - **plumbing** under sinks;
  - crawlspace;
  - without moving any furniture, **clear a 6-inch wide area** along all inside walls of boxes, toys, magazines, shoes, clothing, etc.
3. Remove items from infested storage areas, vacuum cracks, crevices and all baseboards free of lint.
  - Dispose of infested materials or thoroughly vacuum items before storing in new or plastic containers.
  - Store food and garbage in pest proof containers.

### Application

A quick-drying pesticide is applied in emptied storage areas, all baseboards, floor edges and plumbing.

### After Treatment

**Do not** wash or vacuum treated area for at least 30 days following application (light sweeping is OK) as this will degrade the product which otherwise can be effective for up to a year. After this waiting period, regular vacuuming is one of the recommended mechanical controls.

#### Reduce Humidity

Effective long-term control may require improving ventilation, repairing leaks or other moisture controls.

#### Seal

Block off any openings leading to wall voids, especially under sinks and other warm and damp areas, e.g. hot water tank. Seal or caulk previously vacuumed and treated gaps.

### What to Expect

Since not all hiding places are accessible, silverfish may continue to be seen after treatment but will die when contacting the product. Mechanical controls in conjunction with pesticide should be effective.

*Thank you for choosing V.I. Pest Doctor*