



## 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.

### 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. Vacuum baseboards, cracks and crevices free of lint.

### Application

A quick-drying residual and/or contact pesticide is sprayed around baseboards, floor edges and plumbing.

### After Treatment

**Do not** wash or vacuum treated area for at least 30 days following application. After this waiting period, regular vacuuming is one of the recommended mechanical controls.

#### Reduce Humidity

Additional control may be achieved by using sticky insect traps in areas of high humidity.

#### Sanitize

- Remove infested boxes and other material, and thoroughly vacuum then restack items in storage areas.
- Store food and garbage in pest proof containers and keep food preparation areas clean.
- Previously vacuumed and treated gaps may be sealed or caulked.

### What to Expect

Since it is difficult to access all hiding places, silverfish may continue to be seen after treatment but will die when contacting the product. Mechanical controls should be effective when used in conjunction with our treatment; on the other hand, control efforts should not rely exclusively on pesticide spraying.