

Why are silverfish a pest?

Silverfish are not considered a nuisance pest and are not a risk to human health.

Adults are approximately 12mm long, slim and silver grey in colour. Their abdomen is tapered at the end giving them a fish like appearance, hence their name.

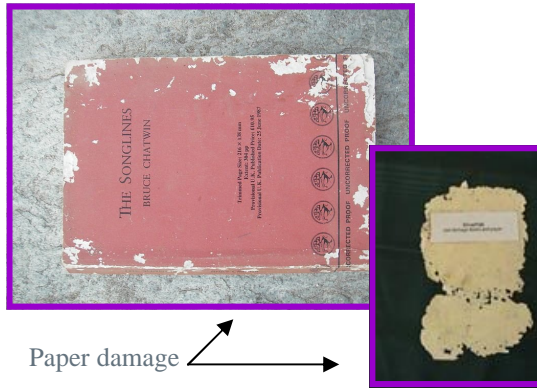


Signs of silverfish?

Silverfish are usually found in moist or damp areas such as kitchens but are also found in bathrooms, under floors and basements.

You might notice:

- * Insects moving rapidly when lights are turned on in a dark room
- * Damage to wallpaper, books or other such materials
- * May also eat cereals and flour etc
- * Scales, excrement or yellow stains on paper or fabrics
- * Seeing the insects (dead or alive) when they become trapped in sinks or baths



How to prevent an infestation?

As established are attracted to damp, dark environments. One of the best means of prevention is to ensure damp does not become an issue in the property.

The following may also help prevent infestations:

- * Ensure any leaks into ceiling voids / flat roofs are fixed
- * Ensure there is no moisture trapped under flooring i.e. under vinyl, laminate and non-permeable floors
- * Ensure there is no moisture trapped in exterior walls
- * Ensure any and all condensation (especially near plumbing) is cleaned regularly
- * Repair any plumbing leaks

Control Methods

How to treat an infestation

- * Arrange for the affected areas to be treated for damp, a dehumidifier will also help dry it out
- * Dispose of any stacks of paper (i.e. magazine, newspapers) or clothing
- * Any clothing or books which you wish to save can be placed into a freezer (wrapped in plastic) for 4 to 7 days (ensure the plastic is left on until the items have thawed). The severe cold will kill the insects.
- * Sealing holes, cracks and gaps in affected rooms can help restrict their movements to other area
- * Insecticides for crawling insects can be purchased from DIY and Garden Centers



Using an insecticide

Always ensure you read the instructions BEFORE using the product.

- * Apply the insecticidal dust or spray around the perimeter of the affected rooms
- * Any accessible cracks, crevices or voids should also be treated
- * Please be aware that insecticidal treatments will keep the problem at bay but only treating long term issues with damp will eradicate the problem

Leeds City Council's Service

If you have an ongoing problems with silverfish Leeds City Council offer a competitively priced service for both domestic and commercial properties.

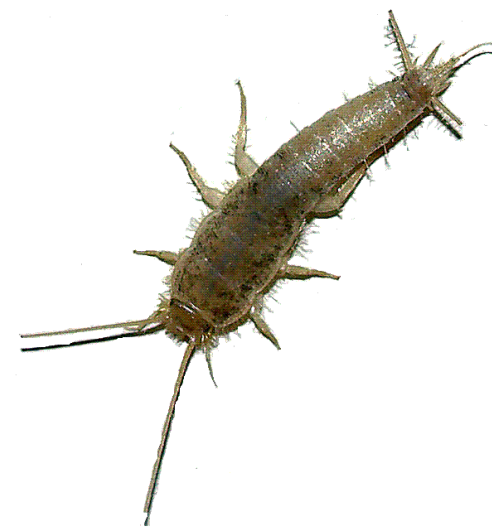
Treatments are carried out by a professional pest controller with nationally recognised qualifications.

For further information or to book a treatment please call 0113 2224406.



Pest information leaflet

Silverfish



Contact us

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet or would like professional advice please contact
Leeds City Council Corporate Call Centre
0113 2224406
or email
pests@leeds.gov.uk

Further information and copies of this leaflet can be found on the council's website
www.leeds.gov.uk/pestcontrol

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