

## Silverfish Information Sheet

### Silverfish

Silverfish are common in homes, offices and schools and are usually found in areas of with high heat and humidity.

- **Silverfish in the Home**

In homes, one would typically find these bugs under kitchen and bathroom sinks, in cupboards, around baseboards, in furnaces and laundry rooms, attics and crawlspaces. Silverfish are also found in commercial buildings like restaurants, bakeries and office towers. Silverfish are small, a half an inch to 1-inch long and silver to grey in color. They have a soft body and do not have wings. Silverfish are not often seen by homeowners because they are nocturnal.



- **What Silverfish Eat**

Silverfish are not directly harmful to humans, however are quite annoying and cause damage to properties. The common material in which the silverfishes feed on is paper, clothing and other items. They also eat food items like sugar, and flour. However silverfish do not bite humans even though they have the ability to chew holes in paper.

- **How to Get Rid of Silverfish**

Silverfish can also survive long periods, sometimes over a year, without food but are sensitive to moisture and require a high humidity to survive. To prevent silverfish you can remove damp conditions, which encourage silverfish, also dry up spilled water and open windows of rooms to allow air in and condensation and moisture out. Another effective method to get rid of silverfish is by destroying their food source. Try to maintain the moisture in the house at low levels, as the insects do not like dry environments. If you control moisture, mold and mildew on which the silverfishes usually feed, would also be prevented. Make sure that you keep all grains, cereals, flour, sugar and cookies in tightly sealed containers.

## SILVERFISH PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

**Island Pest Services** will be treating your suite for the control of Silverfish. Please be prepared to have your suite treated on this date.

The preparations required are as follows:

1. Remove all items from the lower level kitchen and bathroom cupboards.
2. Moveable furniture, plants and any items that are up against a wall should be pulled away at least one foot.
3. Clear all closet floors.
4. All toys, clothes, books, etc. should be picked up off the floor.
5. All people and pets must vacate their suite during the treatment and be out for a minimum of four hours after completion of the job. Children under two years of age, expectant and nursing mothers and people suffering from respiratory ailments are recommended to stay out at least twelve hours.
6. Fish tanks should have their air pumps unplugged, and a wet towel placed over the aquarium.
7. Leave at least 3 inches from walls when cleaning carpets and floors for the next month.

After the treatment, open the windows to ventilate your suite. Be sure to keep food in covered containers and remove all garbage at least once a day. You may replace items back in cupboards when you re-enter your suite. Do not wipe treated areas, install non-adhesive liners. We appreciate your support regarding this important matter, as the effectiveness of our treatment depends on your cooperation.

Thank you.