



Silverfish

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
- Scales, excrement or yellow stains on paper or fabrics
- Seeing the insects (dead or alive) when they become trapped in sinks or baths

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

How to prevent an infestation

Silverfish 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

Pest Control

If you find that you have silverfish in your home contact the Environmental Health Department on 01442 228543/ 228455, or email pestcontrol@dacorum.gov.uk