

# No paste, make haste

## Silverfish & Firebrats

### Pest Control Services



# Silverfish & Firebrats

## Characteristics

The silverfish (*Lepisma Saccharina* L.) and the firebrat (*Thermobia Domestica*) are closely related insects. Both are very common household pests.

They are elongated, scaly, segmented wingless insects, with a pair of long fine antennae at the rear. Silverfish may grow to 12mm in length but the firebrat tends to be larger (14mm) with much longer antennae. The body is covered in scales but the silverfish, as the name implies is silvery and glistening in appearance whilst the firebrat is greyish with dark, irregular markings.

## Where to find silverfish & firebrats

The silverfish is found where conditions are fairly moist, in kitchens, larders and particularly in bathrooms and basements. It may occur amongst books and paper, in slightly damp cupboards and behind skirting and loose wallpaper. It is a general scavenger in warehouses and granaries.

The firebrat requires much higher temperatures, ideally between 32oC and 48oC. It is often found in bakeries and near ovens and hot pipes. Both the silverfish and firebrat are nocturnal, hiding during the day and coming out to look for food at night.

Both species feed principally on carbohydrates and small amounts of protein. The silverfish feeds mainly on small food particles; paste from the back of wallpaper; gums and glues from book bindings; and also fragments of dead insects.

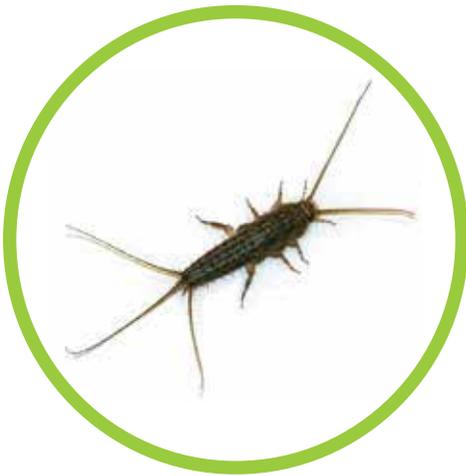
## Problems caused by silverfish & firebrats

Silverfish and firebrats do not cause a risk to human health.

They may on occasion cause damage by chewing papers and manuscripts, and fine textiles and leather.

They may also invade dried foods which have been stored in damp cupboards.





## Life Cycle

The female silverfish is believed to lay about 100 eggs, either singly or in groups, usually in crevices and cracks and not glued to the surface on which they are laid. They are small and white when first laid but soon turn brownish and are difficult to find. They hatch in two to eight weeks dependent on temperature and humidity.

The life cycle of the firebrat is similar to that of the silverfish but it lays a greater number of eggs.

## Control

The presence of silver fish is an indication of damp conditions, therefore keeping your premises clean and free of damp will help prevent infestation; for large numbers a residual insecticide can be purchased from DIY stores. Apply it into cracks, crevices, around heating and hot water pipes and other similar sites.

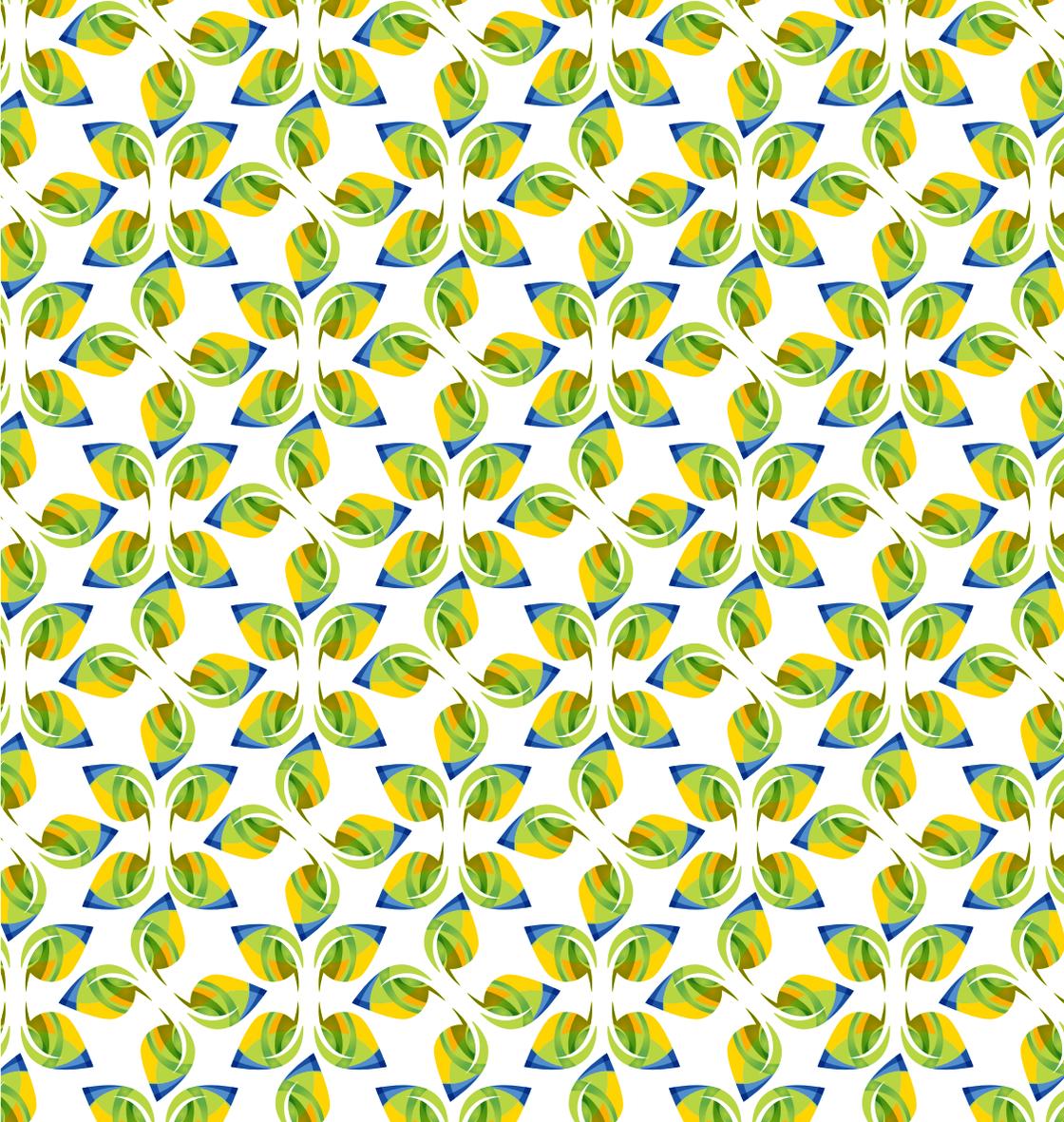
Silverfish and Firebrats do not pose a risk to human health, therefore we do not normally carry out treatment. Should they be present in large numbers, however, we may carry out an insecticide treatment.

## Please contact us for further information on treatments and current charges



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