

Environmental Health Advice Note

PEST CONTROL SERIES

Silverfish *Lepisma saccharina*

The Silverfish is a sleek sliver/grey insect often found in kitchens and bathrooms where it hides behind skirting boards, bath panels and under kitchen units during the day. At night it emerges to forage for food and is often seen as the light is switched on when entering a dark room.

The insect is harmless but can be a source of annoyance and concern.

This insect is found where there is moisture and therefore it is essential there is no leakage or build up of condensation on cold water pipes. Cupboards that may have become damp should be emptied and allowed to dry out thoroughly. Gaps around the sink, bath or work surfaces should be sealed to prevent water seeping behind the fittings.

Silverfish can be controlled by using an insecticide either in aerosol or powder form which can be sprayed or dusted (using a paintbrush) into cracks.

It is important to remember whenever insecticides are used to read and follow carefully the instructions printed on the packaging.

