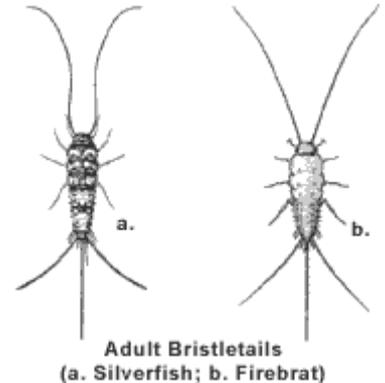




Silverfish & Firebrats

Facts about silverfish and firebrat

- Silverfish are about ½ inch (10-15mm) long and are silvery grey in colour.
- Firebrats are about ½ inch (10-15mm) long and are greyish and mottled with spots and bands of dark scales.
- They both eat a wide variety of foods including glue, wallpaper paste, book bindings, paper, photographs, starch in clothing, cotton, linen, rayon, wheat flour, cereals, dried meats, leather and even dead insects.
- Silverfish live and develop in damp, cool places such as basements and laundry rooms. Sometimes you will see them in the bathtub or sink, unable to climb out.
- Firebrats live in hot, humid places such as attics in the summer and near ovens, fireplaces and central heating pipes in winter.
- Outdoors they can be found under rocks, bark and leaf mould and in ant, bird or animal nests.
- They usually come into the home in food, furniture, old books or papers.
- They are hardy and can live without food for many months.
- They are harmless, and do not generally carry or spread diseases, but can be a nuisance.



Lifecycle and habits

Silverfish females may lay over 100 eggs during a lifetime. Eggs hatch in three to six weeks. Firebrats lay about 50 eggs and hatch in about two weeks, under ideal conditions. Adults may live from two to eight years. Silverfish and firebrats are active at night and hide during the day. When objects are moved where they are hiding, they dart out and seek new hiding places.

How can I get rid of them?

- You could use a residual insecticide, which you can buy from hardware or DIY stores. Look for a product which states it is for the control of Silverfish / Firebrats – typically a crawling insect powder or aerosol. Carefully follow the application and safety instructions on the product. It is recommended that you treat a small test area first to ensure that the chemical does not damage / mark furnishings etc
- Treatment needs to be applied to all possible hiding places such as cracks, crevices, inside floor mouldings, around heating and hot water pipes, in and behind furniture, cupboards and lofts
- Remove old boxes and stacks of papers, magazines, books and fabrics.
- Often reducing available water and lowering the humidity in the home with dehumidifiers and fans – or by increasing ventilation can help.
- Repair leaking plumbing and make sure areas such as kitchens, bathrooms and laundry rooms are well ventilated.
- Keeping your home clean and free from damp will help prevent re-infestation.

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Services from Us.

The Borough Council's Pest Control Service can assist with the treatment of Silverfish / Firebrat problems, we will apply a residual insecticide, usually in the form of a spray.

- To request our help please call 01782 742590 during office hours or see our website.
- Our current charges are detailed on our website at www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk, or available by calling our Customer Services Team on 01782 742590
- Some landlords may pay this charge on your behalf if you live in rented accommodation.
- Our waiting times are typically 3-5 working days.

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