Homeowner Pre-Treatment Preparation Checklist

Chemical Treatment for Silverfish

Re-entry time: Typically 4 hours (or until surfaces are fully dry — confirm with your technician)

Proper preparation improves treatment effectiveness by giving the technician clear access to baseboards, cracks, crevices, and moisture-prone areas where silverfish hide, and by removing competing food sources (paper, cardboard, starches, and debris). Confirm any company-specific instructions, as products and protocols can vary.

1. Reduce Clutter & Remove Food Sources

- ■ Remove or reduce clutter, especially paper products, cardboard boxes, newspapers, magazines, and old books (silverfish feed on these and the starch/glue in them).
- ■ Remove old or ripped shelf paper from cabinets and drawers.
- ■ Store remaining paper goods and books in sealed plastic containers where possible.
- ■ Clear floors of shoes, toys, bags, storage items, and other objects that block access to baseboards and corners.

2. Kitchen & Bathroom Preparation

- ■ Empty lower kitchen and bathroom cabinets and drawers (remove pots, pans, food items, paper products, toiletries, cleaning supplies, etc.).
- ■ Clear countertops, the top of the stove, and the top of the refrigerator.
- ■ Pull out the refrigerator and stove if safely possible so the technician can treat behind and beside them (common hiding spots).
- ■ Clean shelves, cabinet interiors, and areas behind appliances to remove crumbs, grease, and food particles.
- ■ Ensure all food is sealed in airtight containers or stored in the refrigerator.

3. Furniture, Closets & Access

- ■ Move furniture, storage items, and objects at least 6–12 inches (15–30 cm) away from walls throughout the home so baseboards and the wall–floor junction can be treated.
- ■ Clear closet floors and lower shelves of shoes and other items (hanging clothes may usually remain).
- ■ Clear storage areas, linen closets, broom closets, and mechanical rooms along the perimeter where the wall meets the floor.
- ■ Vacuum floors thoroughly, focusing on edges, corners, baseboards, under furniture, and inside closets. Dispose of vacuum contents outdoors in a sealed bag.

4. Moisture & Environmental Steps

- ■ Address obvious moisture sources if possible (wipe up standing water, note leaky pipes or dripping faucets for repair).
- ■ Silverfish thrive in humid areas (bathrooms, laundry rooms, basements, under sinks). Reducing humidity long-term (ideally below 50%) helps prevent re-infestation.

5. People, Pets & Safety

- ■ Arrange for **all people and pets** to leave the home during treatment and remain out for the recommended re-entry time (commonly **4 hours**, sometimes 4–6 hours, or until surfaces are fully dry). Confirm the exact time with your technician.
- ■ Cover fish tanks/aquariums and turn off aerators/filters.
- ■ Remove or secure birds, reptiles, and other sensitive animals.
- ■ Inform the company in advance of any pregnancies, infants, allergies, asthma, respiratory issues, or other health sensitivities. Sensitive individuals may be advised to stay out longer.

6. Important Do’s and Don’ts

- • **Do not** use any over-the-counter sprays, foggers, powders, or other pesticides before the appointment — these can interfere with the professional treatment.
- • Complete all clearing, cleaning, and vacuuming **before** the technician arrives.
- • Do not wipe, mop, or clean treated surfaces (especially baseboards and cabinet interiors) immediately after treatment, as this removes the residual insecticide. Follow the technician’s post-treatment guidance (often avoid wet cleaning of treated areas for 1–3 weeks).
- • Upon re-entry, open windows for 15–20 minutes to ventilate if recommended.

7. After Treatment Notes

Some continued activity can occur for a few weeks as residual product works and remaining silverfish are exposed. A follow-up treatment is sometimes recommended. Long-term success depends heavily on reducing humidity, sealing cracks, storing paper products properly, and maintaining cleanliness.

Always follow the specific written instructions provided by your service company. This checklist is a general guide based on standard professional recommendations.