If you know what to do, you can avoid most pest problems in your home. Follow these steps:

**Identify and monitor the pest.**

**Sanitize and keep your home clean.**

**Exclude pests by sealing entry points.**

**Control pests by trying non-chemical methods first, then using pesticides if necessary.**

Other pests in the ISEC Home Pest Management Series:

- Spiders
- Small Mammals
- Small Flies
- Scorpions
- Pantry Pests
- Fleas
- Cockroaches
- Carpenter Ants

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Identify:

Silverfish are silvery gray, carrot-shaped, and have three tails.

Sanitize:

Immediately:
- Clean up spilled food and drinks.
- Regularly clean under sinks and refrigerators where it is dark and moist.

Excludes:
- Store books and paper in plastic boxes with tight-fitting lids.
- Store food and pet food in glass or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Apply a thin layer of insecticide dust to cracks and crevices.
- Sweep and vacuum often.
- Lower the humidity in your home by using dehumidifiers and fans.
- Regularly clean under sinks and other areas that are hiding places for silverfish.

Control:

If silverfish are a problem in your home...

Exclude:
- Store books and paper in plastic boxes with tight-fitting lids.
- Store food and pet food in glass or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Use caulk or steel wool to seal openings around plumbing pipes and any other openings where pests can enter your home.
- If you can see daylight around outside doors, replace the weather stripping and/or door threshold.
- Inspect boxes, furniture, and other items before bringing them into your home.
- Clean closets regularly.
- Sweep and vacuum often.
- Repair plumbing leaks.
- Use insecticide baits to control silverfish.
- Use insecticide bands to control the pests you will treat.

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