



## GENERAL INSECTS

**A-1 Pest Control Limited** Since 1969  
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[www.a1pestcontrol.ca](http://www.a1pestcontrol.ca)

Ants, centipedes, millipedes, sowbugs, pillbugs, silverfish, firebrats, and other crawling insects.

Ants range in size (1-13 mm), and are a variety of colors including yellow, red, brown, or black. Ants create new colonies and, depending on the species, will have one or more queens and workers. The workers search for food, take care of larvae and protect the nest. The queens lay the eggs. Pavement, carpenter, pharaoh, little black, and odorous are species of ants commonly found in homes. Ants are attracted to crumbs as well as sweet and greasy foods. It is important to know which type of ant is present prior to treatment. Improper treatment can cause budding or splitting of the colony.

While similar, centipedes and millipedes do have basic differences. The centipede's flattened body has one pair of legs per section. Their legs are also longer than the millipedes. The millipede has two pairs of legs per section and a body with a rounded top. In the spring and summer, both the centipede and millipede lay eggs in the soil. It takes one year or more for them to become fully mature. During this time, the young will add new sections and legs each time they molt. They can live five to seven years.

Sowbugs and pillbugs are dark gray in color, and are less than 2 mm in length. Their bodies resemble an armadillo. They require moist conditions to survive and as a result will not survive long inside homes, unless there is a moisture problem.

Centipedes, millipedes, sowbugs, and pillbugs are not insects. They do, however, enjoy the same living conditions as insects.

Silverfish, when mature, are approximately 13 mm in length. Their metallic appearance comes from the shiny, silver scales that cover their body. Silverfish have flat, tapered bodies with long antennae on their head. The rear of their body and have three slender long bristles. Silverfish are commonly found in bathrooms, kitchens, basements, attics, and other cracks or crevices. Firebrats are similar to silverfish but are brown or gray in color with a mottled appearance. Firebrats prefer higher humidity and temperatures than silverfish.

### How to prepare your unit for treatment

Treatment will include the perimeter of all rooms as well as any other affected areas. This may include the bottom of kitchen cupboards, vanities, pantries, closets etc. These locations need to be cleared for servicing. Repair any cracks in foundation or around windows to prevent a future infestation. Keep food in sealed containers and clean spills promptly. People and pets must remain out for at least 4-6 hours to allow adequate drying time. If you are pregnant or have asthma, you should leave for at least 8 hours or overnight.