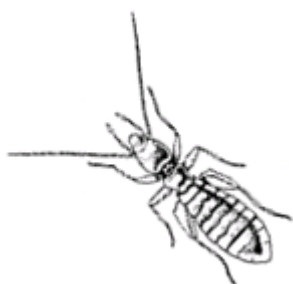




**Psocids (Book Lice)** – The Council will treat for psocids at the standard fee.

**Description** – Psocids are very small colourless insects that can be found in plaster, cereals and books. These tiny ant-like creatures are harmless insects usually between 1mm and 2mm long, often found in warm humid conditions. Book lice have six legs, no wings and long, developed antennae. They are not an indication of poor hygiene and are common in the cleanest of homes.



**Further info** – Psocids prefer to live in dark, warm humid places, such as kitchens, bathrooms or other such areas, associated with high humidity. This can be caused as a result of plaster drying out, inadequate ventilation or leaky pipes. Some foods, such as flour, naturally contain moisture, as such these insects can often be found in such products.

**How to control psocids** – Try to reduce the humidity levels in the affected rooms. Ensure the affected area is thoroughly aired and dry to reduce the risk of moulds developing – thereby denying the insect a food source. Dehumidifying reduces the moisture content of the air that these insects find essential. Packet foods should be stored in well ventilated cupboards, away from cookers and sources of steam, with sufficient space to allow a good airflow. Cupboards and storage areas should be regularly cleaned and food debris not allowed to accumulate in cracks and crevices. Ensure good stock rotation. Regularly inspect cupboards and packets for signs of infestation. Infested commodities should be identified and destroyed. Regularly vacuuming cracks and crevices with a narrow vacuum tip can also be a good method to physically remove these insects from their haborage. Excess food material should be removed should be sealed in containers. Wherever possible, potential hiding areas should be sealed with caulk, especially around windows, cabinets, and mouldings. Increasing the lighting makes harborages less hospitable. Removal of leaf litter from around the home can decrease the chance of an outside invasion. You should always check that any chemical used is suitable for the location/situation and ensure that care is taken if used in close proximity to any food stuffs.