The best leaders avoid these 13 credibility killers

1 Breaking Confidentiality

Trust leaks fast, and doesn't refill.

When someone shares info. in confidence and you fail to protect it, you break a fundamental trust.

Leaders who become known as "leaky vessels" quickly find that information stops flowing their way.

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2 Taking Credit for Others' Work

Fastest way to lose your team.

Few behaviors damage team trust more completely than claiming credit for work done by others.

Great leaders shine the spotlight on their team rather than seeking personal recognition.

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3 Gossiping

Trust isn't built on 'Did you hear?'

Few behaviors damage workplace relationships faster than talking negatively about colleagues.

When you do it, team members wonder what you say about them when they're not in the room.

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4 Showing Disrespect

Those little eye-rolls land loud.

Small signs of disrespect like these communicate how you value others:

- interrupting
- dismissing ideas without consideration
- using condescending language

Respect must be consistent across all levels of the organization.

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5 **Blaming Others**

The finger you point? It's mirrored back.

The blame game is a losing strategy for leaders.

Focusing on finger-pointing rather than problem-solving diminishes your leadership presence.

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6 Defensiveness

Feedback isn't an insult. It's insight.

Responding to feedback with justifications or counterattacks signals an inability to grow.

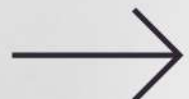Leaders with staying power welcome constructive criticism as a pathway to improvement.

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7 Ethical Inconsistency

Values that bend aren't values.

When your ethical standards seem to shift based on convenience or circumstance, you signal that your principles are negotiable.

True leadership requires unwavering commitment to your core values.

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8 **Overpromising**

Saying yes to things you can't deliver.

Setting expectations you can't meet erodes trust quickly.

Strong leaders understand their limitations and make promises they know they can fulfill.

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9 Selective Reliability

Being dependable only when it counts for *you*.

Being dependable only for high-profile projects while dropping the ball on day-to-day responsibilities signals your commitment is conditional.

True credibility comes from being someone others can always count on.

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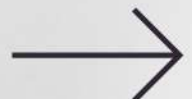
10 Inconsistency

Your team shouldn't need a mood ring.

If your decisions and actions seem arbitrary or unpredictable, people can't rely on your leadership.

Consistency in behavior, expectations, and decision-making creates a foundation of trust.

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11 Poor Follow-Through

Missed deadlines ≠ leadership.

The gap between what you say and what you do tells the real story of your leadership.

When you consistently fail to follow through, people stop believing your commitments altogether.

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12 Avoiding Accountability

"That wasn't me" rarely convinces anyone.

Refusing to own your mistakes chips away at your credibility.

Effective leaders acknowledge when they're wrong and focus on solutions rather than self-protection.

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13 Exaggeration

When *everything's "amazing,"* nothing is.

Embellishing facts, achievements, or challenges might seem like harmless emphasis, but once people spot a pattern of exaggeration, they begin to discount everything you say.

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