



Worst Career Mistakes

And How to Fix Them Fast

Blind Loyalty

Staying in a job because it's easy or you're loyal, even if return loyalty isn't certain

Fix: Assess often if you're valued and challenged, and explore other options if not

Outdated Skills

Stop learning and you'll get less valuable with time

Fix: Take online courses, attend workshops, and follow industry trends to stay competitive

Avoiding Feedback

Feedback can be scary, but it's needed for your success

Fix: Schedule regular check-ins with your boss and ask, "What's one thing I could improve?"

Risk Avoidance

Growth comes from challenges, not staying safe

Fix: Take on stretch projects and volunteer for cross-function work with new people

Health Sacrifice

Burnout and poor health will set you back more than taking breaks

Fix: Prioritize sleep, stress management, and exercise even during crunch times

Self-Doubt

Imposter syndrome keeps you from opportunities

Fix: Keep a success journal, challenge self-doubt with evidence, and remember that everyone's learning



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Burned Bridges

How you leave a company counts - new opportunities can depend on reputation

Fix: Be professional in all exits, even if it's hard, and apologize when necessary

Lack of Goals

Without goals, you can get trapped in dead-end roles

Fix: Define short- and long-term objectives, and reverse-engineer a plan to achieve them

Invisible Effort

Working hard isn't enough - you need visibility

Fix: Speak up in meetings, update your manager on accomplishments, and build relationships

Limited Network

Growth depends more on who (than what) you know

Fix: Set a goal to reach out to two new contacts per month and reconnect with former colleagues

Failure to Negotiate

If you never negotiate, you're leaving money and opportunities on the table

Fix: Role play negotiations, and learn to ask for what you want in a professional way

Weak Branding

Your reputation shapes your perceived expertise

Fix: Build your personal brand, posting insights and joining discussions on LinkedIn

No Backup

Quitting on impulse can leave you financially and professionally vulnerable

Fix: Before you quit, secure a new job, ensure savings, or have a coherent plan