What is claimed is:

1) A method of making a pad transfer printing pad suitable for transferring ink to contact lenses comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a pad transfer printing pad, wherein the pad comprising an addition-cure room temperature vulcanized silicone;

(b) post heat treating the pad transfer printing pad so as to impart a reduced silicone residue release by at least 50 percent to the pad relative to a control transfer pad having identical composition without post heat treating.

2) The method of claim 1, wherein the printing pad further comprising a silicone oil.

3) The method of claims 1- 2, wherein the silicone oil is about 5 percent to 30 percent of the total weight of addition-cure room temperature vulcanized silicone.

4) The method of claims 1-3, wherein the post-heat treating is at temperature conditions within a range of from 70 to 85 degrees Celsius.

5) The method of claims 1-4, wherein the post-heat treating is provided for 24 to 72 hours.

6) The method of claims 1-5, wherein the hardness is from 50 to 90 Shore (00).

7) The method of claims 1-6, wherein the hardness is from 55 to 65 Shore (00).

8) The method of claims 1-7, wherein the pad transfer printing pad has a negative cytotoxicity test result.

9) The method of claims 1-8, wherein the transfer pad is characterized by having a texture ranging from 0.5 to 2.0 µm surface finish as measured using the root mean squared (RMS) method.

10) The method of claims 1- 9, wherein the textured transfer pad is characterized by having a gloss ranging from 1 to 10.

11) A transfer-printing method for making a colored hydrogel contact lens, comprising the steps of:

(a) inking, with an color ink, at least one cliché having an image to be printed on a contact lens to form an inked image in the cliché;

(b) transferring the inked image from the cliché to at least one surface of at least one contact lens by means of at least one transfer pad of claims 1-10,
(c) curing the inked contact lens to cause the color ink to adhere to the contact lens.

12) A transfer-printing method for making a colored hydrogel contact lens, comprising the steps of:
(a) inking, with a color ink, at least one cliché having an image to be printed on a contact lens to form an inked image in the cliché;
(b) transferring the inked image from the cliché to at least one surface of at least one contact lens forming mold by means of at least one transfer pad of claims 1-10,
(c) at least partially curing the inked image transferred on the mold surface to form a colored film;
(d) dispensing a hydrogel lens-forming material into at least one lens-forming cavity of the mold; and
(e) curing the lens-forming material within the lens-forming cavity to form the contact lens, whereby the colored film detaches from the molding surface and becomes integral with the body of the contact lens.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of making a pad transfer printing pad suitable for transferring ink to contact lenses comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a pad transfer printing pad, wherein the pad comprising an addition-cure room temperature vulcanized silicone;

(b) post heat treating the pad transfer printing pad so as to impart a reduced silicone residue release by at least 50 percent to the pad relative to a control transfer pad having identical composition without post heat treating.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the printing pad further comprising a silicone oil.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the silicone oil is about 5 percent to 30 percent of the total weight of addition-cure room temperature vulcanized silicon.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the post-heat treating is at temperature conditions within a range of from 70 to 85 degrees Celsius.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the post-heat treating is provided for 24 to 72 hours.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the hardness is from 50 to 90 Shore (00).

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the hardness is from 55 to 65 Shore (00).

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the pad transfer printing pad has a negative cytotoxicity test result.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the transfer pad is characterized by having a texture ranging from 0.5 to 2.0 μm surface finish as measured using the root mean squared (RMS) method.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the textured transfer pad is characterized by having a gloss ranging from 1 to 10.

11. A transfer-printing method for making a colored hydrogel contact lens, comprising the steps of:

(a) inking, with an color ink, at least one cliché having an image to be printed on a contact lens to form an inked image in the cliché;

(b) transferring the inked image from the cliché to at least one surface of at least one contact lens by means of at least one transfer pad, wherein the transfer pad comprises an addition-cure RTV, and the transfer pad has been subjected to a post heat treatment so as to impart a reduced silicone residue release to the pad by at least 50 percent relative to a control transfer pad having identical composition without post heat treating,

(c) curing the inked contact lens to cause the color ink to adhere to the contact lens, wherein better print quality after a post heat treatment.

12. The method of claim **10**, wherein the hardness is from 50 to 90 Shore (00).

13. The method of claim **10**, wherein the hardness is from 55 to 65 Shore (00).

14. The method of claim **10**, wherein the transfer pad is characterized by having a texture ranging from 0.5 to 2.0 μm surface finish as measured using the root mean squared (RMS) method.

15. The method of claim **10**, wherein the transfer pad further comprises a silicone oil.

16. A transfer-printing method for making a colored hydrogel contact lens, comprising the steps of:

(a) inking, with a color ink, at least one cliché having an image to be printed on a contact lens to form an inked image in the cliché;

(b) transferring the inked image from the cliché to at least one surface of at least one contact lens forming mold by means of at least one transfer pad, wherein the transfer pad comprises an addition-cure RTV silicon, and the transfer pad has been subjected to a post heat treatment so as to impart a reduced silicone residue release to the pad by at least 50 percent relative to a control transfer pad having identical composition without post heat treating,

(c) at least partially curing the inked image transferred on the mold surface to form a colored film;

(d) dispensing a hydrogel lens-forming material into at least one lens-forming cavity of the mold; and

(e) curing the lens-forming material within the lens-forming cavity to form the contact lens, whereby the colored film detaches from the molding surface and becomes integral with the body of the contact lens.

17. The method of claim **15**, wherein the hardness is from 50 to 90 Shore (00).

18. The method of claim **15**, wherein the hardness is from 55 to 65 Shore (00).

19. The method of claim **15**, wherein the transfer pad is characterized by having a texture ranging from 0.5 to 2.0 μm surface finish as measured using the root mean squared (RMS) method.