CLAIMS

1. A method for making contact lenses, comprising the steps of:

(1) providing a contact lens mold, wherein the mold has a first mold half with a first molding surface defining the anterior surface of a contact lens and a second mold half with a second molding surface defining the posterior surface of the contact lens, wherein said first and second mold halves are configured to receive each other such that a cavity is formed between said first and second molding surfaces:
(2) applying a layer solution of mold releasing agent selected from the group consisting of fatty amines of carbon chain length C18 or less and silicones bearing pendant substituted pyrrolidone groups onto the first molding surface anchor the second molding surface, wherein the weight percentage of mold releasing agent in the solution is from 0.01% to 10% based on the entire weight of the solution;
(3) at least partially drying said layer solution to form a coat of the releasing agent on the first and/or second molding surface, wherein the formation of the coat of the releasing agent vesicles on the first and/or second molding surfaces is **characterized by** having a percentage of reduction in mold separation force of at least about 50% relative to a control mold without any coat of the releasing agent vesicles thereon.
(4) introducing a fluid composition into the cavity formed by the first and second molding surfaces with the coat of the mold releasing agent formed in step (3) thereon, wherein the fluid composition comprises a lens-forming material, wherein the lens-forming material is crosslinkable and/or polymerizable by actinic radiation,
(5) crosslinking/polymerizing the lens-forming material in the mold to form a contact lens having a polymer matrix; and
(6) separating the mold and removing the formed contact lens from the mold.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the lens-forming material comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a hydrophilic vinylic monomer, a silicone containing vinylic monomer, a silicone-containing crosslinker, a silicone-containing prepolymer, a hydrophilic prepolymer free of silicone, and combinations thereof.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the mold is a reusable mold.

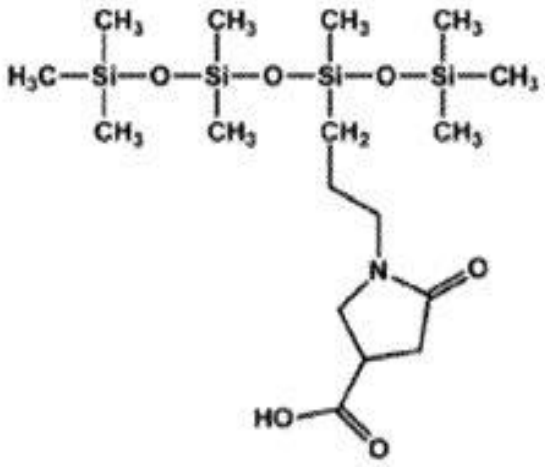
4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the reusable mold is made of glass or quartz.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the mold releasing agent is a fatty amine of carbon chain length no greater than C18.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the mold releasing agent is a stearyl amine.

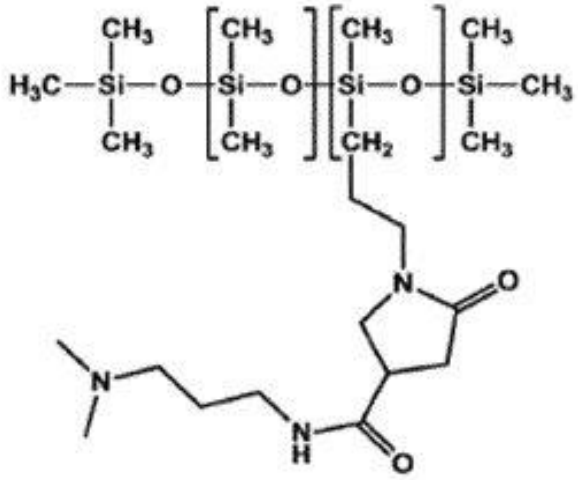
7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the mold releasing agent is a silicones bearing pendant substituted pyrrolidone groups.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein silicones bearing pendant substituted pyrrolidone groups is a (N-PYRROLIDONE-PROPYL) METHYLSILOXANE - DIMETHYLSILOXANE COPOLYMER as shown by the formula 1:



(1)

9. The method of claim 7, wherein silicones bearing pendant substituted pyrrolidone groups is a [(4-N, N-DIMETHYLAMIDO)-1-PYRROLYDINOPROPYL] METHYLSILOXANE)-(DIMETHYLSILOXANE) CO-POLYMER as shown by the formula 2:



(2)

10. The method of any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein the solution of mold releasing agent is a water solution.

11. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein the step of applying a layer solution of mold releasing agent is carried by spraying the mold releasing agent solution onto the molding surfaces of the mold.