What is claimed:

1. A method for producing UV-absorbing contact lenses, comprising the steps of: obtaining an ophthalmic lens, preferably a contact lens; dipping the ophthalmic lens in a coating solution comprising a first organic solvent and a UV-absorbing polymer for a period of time sufficient to form a UV-absorbing coating on the ophthalmic lens; wherein the UV-absorbing polymer comprises UV-absorbing monomeric units and at least about 50%, preferably at least about 60%, more preferably at least about 70%, even more preferably at least about 80%, most preferably at least about 90%, by mole of carboxyl-containing monomeric units; and optionally but preferably covalently attaching a hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material having reactive functional groups onto the UV-absorbing coating to form a hydrogel coating, wherein the hydrogel coating is covalently attached onto the UV-absorbing coating through linkages each formed between one carboxylic group of the UV-absorbing coating and one reactive functional group of the hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material.

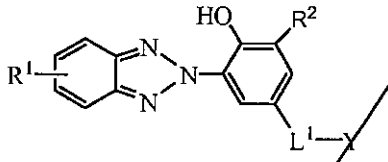
2. The method of claim 1, wherein each UV-absorbing monomeric unit comprises a benzotriazole or benzophenone moiety.

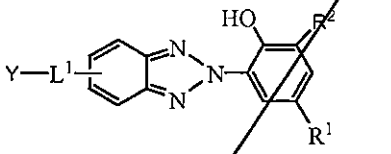
3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the UV-absorbing polymer is obtained by copolymerizing a polymerizable mixture comprising at least one carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer and at least one UV-absorbing vinylic monomer in the presence or absence of a vinylic monomer, provided that the carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer is present in an amount of at least about 50%, preferably at least about 60%, more preferably at least about 70%, even more preferably at least about 80%, most preferably at least about 90% by mole in the polymerizable composition.

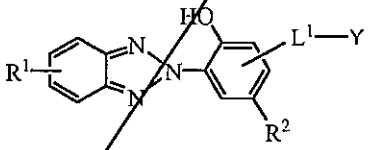
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the UV-absorbing vinylic monomer is selected from the group consisting of 2-(2-hydroxy-5-vinylphenyl)-2H-benzotriazole, 2-(2-hydroxy-5-acrylyloxyphenyl)-2H-benzotriazole, 2-(2-hydroxy-3-methacrylamido methyl-5-tert octylphenyl) benzotriazole, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacrylamidophenyl)-5-chlorobenzotriazole, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacrylamidophenyl)-5-methoxybenzotriazole, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacryloxypropyl-3'-t-butyl-phenyl)-5-chlorobenzotriazo le, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacryloxyethylphenyl) benzotriazole, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacryloxypropylphenyl) benzotriazole, 2-hydroxy-4-acryloxy alkoxy benzophenone, 2-hydroxy-4-methacryloxy alkoxy benzophenone, allyl-2-hydroxybenzophenone, and 2-hydroxy-4-methacryloxy benzophenone, and combinations thereof; wherein the carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid, N,N-

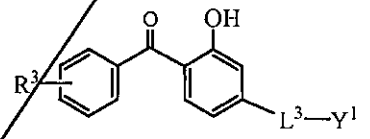
2-acrylamidoglycolic acid, beta-methyl-acrylic acid (crotonic acid), alpha-phenyl acrylic acid, beta-acryloxy propionic acid, sorbic acid, angelic acid, cinnamic acid, 1-carobxy-4-phenyl butadiene-1,3, itaconic acid, citraconic acid, mesaconic acid, glutaconic acid, aconitic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, tricarboxy ethylene, and combinations thereof, preferably from the group consisting of acrylic acid, C_1-C_6 alkylacrylic acid, and combinations thereof.

5. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein the UV-absorbing polymer is obtained by reacting a UV-absorbing compound with a precursor polymer having at least about 50%, preferably at least about 60%, more preferably at least about 70%, even more preferably at least about 80%, most preferably at least about 90%, by mole of carboxyl-containing monomeric units in a coupling reaction, wherein the UV-absorbing compound is represented by formula I, II, III, or IV


I

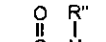

II

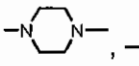
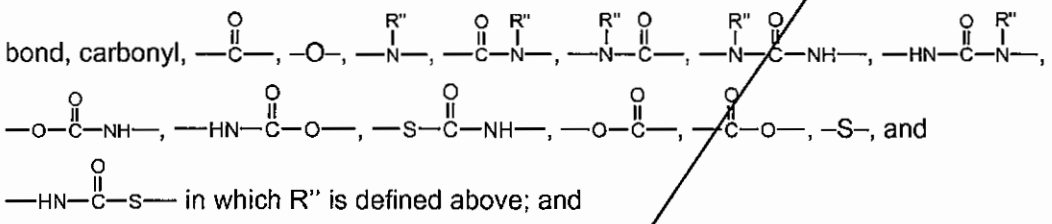

III


IV

in which

R^1, R^2 and R^3 independently of one other are hydrogen, a C_1-C_{12} linear or branched alkyl group, a halogen (Cl or Br), a C_6 to C_{24} aryl group, a C_7 to C_{24} alkylaryl group, a C_7 to C_{24} arylalkyl, or a C_1-C_{12} linear or branched alkoxy group;

L^1 and L^3 independent of each other are a covalent bond or a divalent radical of $-X_a-E_1-X_b-E_2-X_c-$ in which X_a is a covalent bond, –O–, carbonyl (), a divalent radical of $-(R^aO)_n-$ in which R^a is a linear or branched C_1-C_{12}-alkylene and n is from 1 to 10, , or  in which R" is H or C_1-C_6 alkyl, E_1 and E_2 independently of each

other are a covalent bond, a divalent radical of $-(R^aO)_n-$ in which R^a and n are defined above, , , or in which R" is H or C_1-C_8 alkyl, a C_1 to C_{12} linear or branched alkylene divalent radical, a cycloalkyl divalent radical with up to 40 carbon atoms, an alkylcycloalkyl divalent radical with up to 40 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl divalent radical with up to 40 carbon atoms, an arylalkylene divalent radical with up to 40 carbon atoms, or a dicarbonyl group having the formula $-C(O)L^2C(O)-$ in which L^2 is a C_1 to C_{12} linear or branched alkylene divalent radical or $-(R^{e1}-O)_{w1}-(R^{e2}-O)_{w2}-(R^{e3}-O)_{w3}-$, wherein R^{e1}, R^{e2}, and R^{e3} independently of one another are a linear or branched C_1-C_4-alkylene and w1, w2 and w3 independently of one another are a number from 0 to 20 provided that the sum of (w1+w2+w3) is 1 to 60, and X_b and X_c independently of each other are a covalent bond, carbonyl, 

in which R" is defined above; and

Y and Y^1 independent of each other are an azlactone group, an epoxy group, an isocyanate group, an aziridine group, or an amino group of –NHR in which R is hydrogen or a C_1-C_{20} unsubstituted or substituted, linear or branched alkyl group.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the precursor polymer is: (1) a homopolymer of acrylic acid or C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid; (2) a copolymer of acrylic acid and C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid; (3) a copolymer of a carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer and an amino-containing vinylic monomer, wherein the carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer is acrylic acid or C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic or combination thereof, wherein the amino-containing vinylic monomer is selected from the group consisting of amino–C_2-C_6 alkyl (meth)acrylate, C_1-C_6 alkylamino–C_2-C_6 alkyl (meth)acrylate, allylamine, vinylamine, amino–C_2-C_6 alkyl (meth)acrylamide, C_1-C_6 alkylamino–C_2-C_6 alkyl (meth)acrylamide), and combination thereof; or (4) a copolymer of a carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer and one or more hydrophilic vinylic monomers, wherein the carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer is acrylic acid or C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic or combination thereof, wherein said one or more hydrophilic vinylic monomers are free of carboxyl or amino group and selected from the group consisting of acrylamide (AAm), methacrylamide N,N-dimethylacrylamide (DMA), N,N-dimethyl methacrylamide (DMMA), N-vinylpyrrolidone (NVP), N,N,-dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate (DMAEM), N,N-dimethylaminoethylacrylate (DMAEA), N,N-dimethylaminopropyl methacrylamide (DMAPMAm), N,N-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide (DMAPAAm), glycerol methacrylate, 3-acryloylamino-1-propanol, N-hydroxyethyl acrylamide, *N*-[tris(hydroxymethyl) methyl]-acrylamide, N-methyl-

3-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 1-ethyl-3-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 1-methyl-5-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 1-ethyl-5-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 5-methyl-3-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 5-ethyl-3-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 2-hydroxyethyl (meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl (meth)acrylate, C_1-C_4-alkoxy polyethylene glycol (meth)acrylate having a weight average molecular weight of up to 1500 Daltons, N-vinyl formamide, N-vinyl acetamide, N-vinyl isopropylamide, N-vinyl-N-methyl acetamide, allyl alcohol, vinyl alcohol (hydrolyzed form of vinyl acetate in the copolymer), and combinations thereof.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the precursor polymer is polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, poly(C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid), poly(acrylic acid-co-methacrylic acid), poly[C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid-co-(meth)acrylic acid], poly(N,N-2-acrylamidoglycolic acid), poly[(meth)acrylic acid-co-acrylamide], poly[(meth)acrylic acid-co-vinylpyrrolidone], poly[C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid-co-acrylamide], poly[C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid-co-vinylpyrrolidone], hydrolyzed poly[(meth)acrylic acid-co-vinylacetate], hydrolyzed poly[C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid-co-vinylacetate], or combinations thereof.

8. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 7, further comprising a step of rinsing the ophthalmic lens having the UV-absorbing coating thereon with a mixture of water and at most about 50%, preferably at most about 40%, more preferably at most about 30%, even more preferably at most about 20%, most preferably at most about 10% by weight of a second organic solvent, wherein the first organic solvent is present in an amount of at least about 60%, preferably at least about 70%, more preferably at least about 80%, even more preferably at least about 90%, most preferably at least about 95% by weight in the coating solution.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the method comprises a step of covalently attaching a hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material having reactive functional groups onto the UV-absorbing coating to form a hydrogel coating, wherein the hydrogel coating is covalently attached onto the UV-absorbing coating through linkages each formed between one carboxylic group of the UV-absorbing coating and one reactive functional group of the hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the reactive functional groups of the hydrophilic polymer and hydrophilic polymeric material are azetidinium groups, epoxy groups, isocyanate groups, aziridine groups, azlactone groups, amino groups, carboxyl groups, and combinations thereof.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the hydrogel coating is formed by crosslinking a partially-crosslinked polymeric material onto the UV-absorbing coating, wherein the partially-crosslinked polymeric material is water-soluble and comprises a three-dimensional

network and reactive functional groups selected from the group consisting of azetidinium groups, epoxy groups, isocyanate groups, aziridine groups, azlactone groups, amino groups, carboxyl groups, and combinations thereof, preferably being azetidinium groups, within the network.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the partially-crosslinked polymeric material comprises (i) from about 20% to about 95% by weight of first polymer chains derived from an epichlorohydrin-functionalized polyamine or polyamidoamine, (ii) from about 5% to about 80% by weight of hydrophilic moieties or second polymer chains derived from at least one hydrophilicity-enhancing agent having at least one reactive functional group selected from the group consisting of amino group, carboxyl group, thiol group, and combination thereof, wherein the hydrophilic moieties or second polymer chains are covalently attached to the first polymer chains through one or more covalent linkages each formed between one azetitdinium group of the epichlorohydrin-functionalized polyamine or polyamidoamine and one amino, carboxyl or thiol group of the hydrophilicity-enhancing agent, and (iii) azetidinium groups which are parts of the first polymer chains or pendant or terminal groups covalently attached to the first polymer chains. Preferably, at least one of first and second polymer chains comprises UV-absorbing monomeric units.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the step of covalently attaching the hydrophilic polymeric material is performed by autoclaving the contact lens with the UV-absorbing coating thereon in a packaging solution including the partially-crosslinked polymeric material in a sealed lens package at a temperature of from about 118°C to about 125°C for approximately 20-90 minutes.

14. The method of any one of claims 9 to 13, wherein the hydrophilic polymer or hydrophilic polymeric material for forming the hydrogel coating comprises UV-absorbing moieties.

15. The method of any one of claims 1 to 14, wherein the UV-absorbing coating further comprises a blue light-absorbing polymer.

16. The method according to any one of claims 1 to 15, wherein the ophthalmic lens is a silicone hydrogel contact lens which has a surface wettability characterized by having an averaged water contact angle of about 90 degrees or less, preferably about 80 degrees or less, more preferably about 70 degrees or less, even more preferably about 60 degrees or less, most preferably about 50 degrees or less.

17. An ophthalmic lenses obtained according to the method of any one of claims 1 to 16.

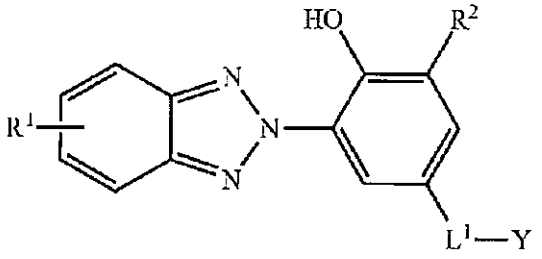
CLAIMS

1. A method for producing UV-absorbing contact lenses, comprising the steps of:

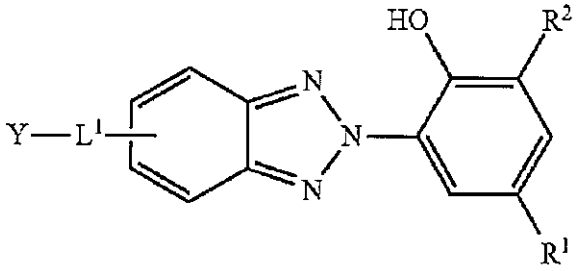
obtaining an ophthalmic lens;

dipping the ophthalmic lens in a coating solution, which comprises a first organic solvent and a UV-absorbing polymer dissolved in the first organic solvent, for a period of time sufficient to form a UV-absorbing coating on the ophthalmic lens, wherein the UV-absorbing polymer comprises UV-absorbing monomeric units and at least 50% by mole of carboxyl-containing monomeric units, wherein the UV-absorbing polymer is obtained by reacting a UV-absorbing compound with a precursor polymer having at least 50% by mole of carboxyl-containing monomeric units in a coupling reaction, wherein the UV-absorbing compound is represented by formula I, II, III, or IV

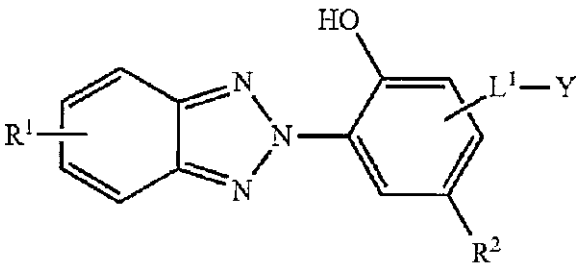
I



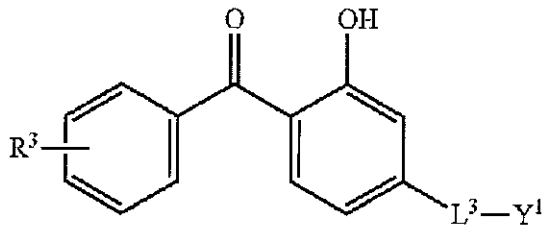
II



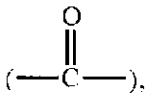
III



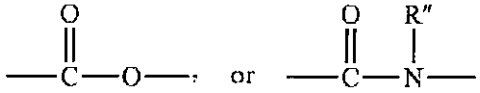
IV



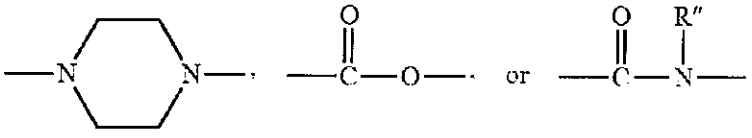
in which R^1, R^2 and R^3 independently of one another are hydrogen, a C_1-C_{12} linear or branched alkyl group, a halogen, a C_6 to C_{24} aryl group, a C_7 to C_{24} alkylaryl group, a C_7 to C_{24} arylalkyl, or a C_1-C_{12} linear or branched alkoxy group; L^1 and L^3 independent of each other are a covalent bond or a divalent radical of $—X_a$-E_1-X_b-E_2-$X_c—$ in which X_a is a covalent bond, —O—, carbonyl



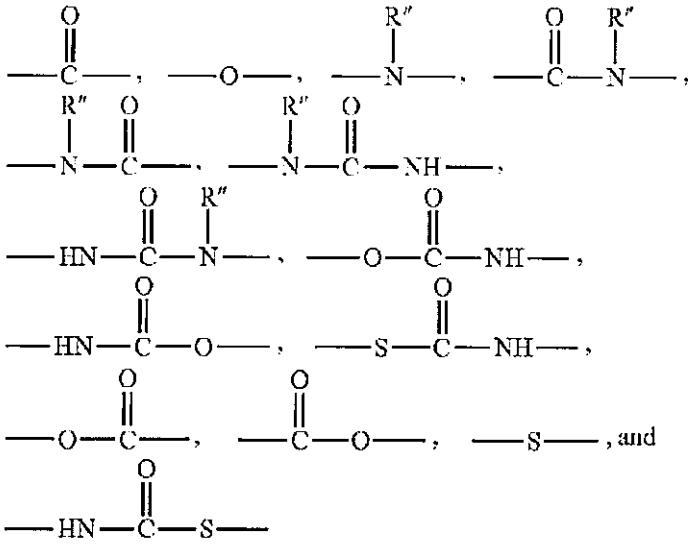
a divalent radical of $—(R^aO)_n—$ in which R^a is a linear or branched C_1-C_{12}-alkylene and n is from 1 to 10,



in which R" is H or C_1-C_8 alkyl, E_1 and E_2 independently of each other are a covalent bond, a divalent radical of $—(R^aO)_n—$ in which R^a and n are defined above,



in which R" is H or C_1-C_8 alkyl, a C_1 to C_{12} linear or branched alkylene divalent radical, a cycloalkyl divalent radical with up to 40 carbon atoms, an alkylcycloalkyl divalent radical with up to 40 carbon atoms, an alkylaryl divalent radical with up to 40 carbon atoms, an arylalkylene divalent radical with up to 40 carbon atoms, or a dicarbonyl group having the formula —C(O)L^2C(O)— in which L^2 is a C_1 to C_{12} linear or branched alkylene divalent radical or —$(R^{e1}$—O$)_{w1}$—$(R^{e2}$—O$)_{w2}$—$(R^{e3}$—O$)_{w3}$—, wherein R^{e1}, R^{e2}, and R^{e3} independently of one another are a linear or branched C_1-C_4-alkylene and w1, w2 and w3 independently of one another are a number from 0 to 20 provided that the sum of (w1+w2+w3) is 1 to 60, and X_b and X_c independently of each other are a covalent bond, carbonyl,



in which R" is defined above; and

Y and Y^1 independent of each other are an azlactone group, an epoxy group, an isocyanate group, an aziridine group, or an amino group of —NHR in which R is hydrogen or a C_1-C_{20} unsubstituted or substituted, linear or branched alkyl group; and optionally covalently attaching a hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material having reactive functional groups onto the UV-absorbing coating to form a hydrogel coating, wherein the hydrogel coating is covalently attached onto the UV-absorbing coating through linkages each formed between one carboxylic group of the UV-absorbing coating and one reactive functional group of the hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the precursor polymer is: (1) a homopolymer of acrylic acid or C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid; (2) a copolymer of acrylic acid and C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid; (3) a copolymer of a carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer and an amino-containing vinylic monomer, wherein the carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer is acrylic acid or C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic or combination thereof, wherein the amino-containing vinylic monomer is selected from the group consisting of amino-C_2-C_6 alkyl(meth)acrylate, C_1-C_6 alkylamino-C_2-C_6 alkyl(meth)acrylate, allylamine, vinylamine, amino-C_2-C_6 alkyl(meth)acrylamide, C_1-C_6 alkylamino-C_2-C_6 alkyl(meth)acrylamide), and combination thereof; or (4) a copolymer of a carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer and one or more hydrophilic vinylic monomers, wherein the carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer is acrylic acid or C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic or combination thereof, wherein said one or more hydrophilic vinylic monomers are free of carboxyl or amino group and selected from the group consisting of acrylamide (AAm), methacrylamide N,N-dimethylacrylamide (DMA), N,N-dimethyl methacrylamide (DMMA), N-vinylpyrrolidone (NVP), N,N,-dimethylaminoethylmethacrylate (DMAEM), N,N-dimethylaminoethylacrylate (DMAEA), N,N-dimethylaminopropyl methacrylamide (DMAPMAm), N,N-dimethylaminopropylacrylamide (DMAPAAm), glycerol methacrylate, 3-acryloylamino-1-propanol, N-hydroxyethyl acrylamide, N-[tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl]-acrylamide, N-methyl-3-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 1-ethyl-3-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 1-methyl-5-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 1-ethyl-5-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 5-methyl-3-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 5-ethyl-3-methylene-2-pyrrolidone, 2-hydroxyethyl(meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl(meth)acrylate, C_1-C_4-alkoxy polyethylene glycol(meth)acrylate having a weight average molecular weight of up to 1500 Daltons, N-vinyl formamide, N-vinyl acetamide, N-vinyl isopropylamide, N-vinyl-N-methyl acetamide, allyl alcohol, vinyl alcohol (hydrolyzed form of vinyl acetate in the copolymer), and combinations thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the precursor polymer is polyacrylic acid, polymethacrylic acid, poly(C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid), poly(acrylic acid-co-methacrylic acid), poly [C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid-co-(meth)acrylic acid], poly(N,N-2-acrylamidoglycolic acid), poly[(meth)acrylic acid-co-acrylamide], poly[(meth)acrylic acid-co-vinylpyrrolidone], poly[C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid-co-acrylamide], poly[C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid-co-vinyl pyrrolidone], hydrolyzed poly [(meth)acrylic acid-co-vinylacetate], hydrolyzed poly[C_2-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid-co-vinylacetate], or combinations thereof.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of rinsing the ophthalmic lens having the UV-absorbing coating thereon with a mixture of water and at most 50% by weight of a second organic solvent, wherein the first organic solvent is present in an amount of at least 60% by weight in the coating solution.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the method comprises a step of covalently attaching a hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material having reactive functional groups onto the UV-absorbing coating to form a hydrogel coating, wherein the hydrogel coating is covalently attached onto the UV-absorbing coating through linkages each formed between one carboxylic group of the UV-absorbing coating and one reactive functional group of the hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the reactive functional groups of the hydrophilic polymer and hydrophilic polymeric material are azetidinium groups, epoxy groups, isocyanate groups, aziridine groups, azlactone groups, amino groups, carboxyl groups, and combinations thereof.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the hydrogel coating is formed by crosslinking a partially-crosslinked polymeric material onto the UV-absorbing coating, wherein the partially-crosslinked polymeric material is water-soluble and comprises a three-dimensional network and reactive functional groups selected from the group consisting of azetidinium groups, epoxy groups, isocyanate groups, aziridine groups, azlactone groups, amino groups, carboxyl groups, and combinations thereof.

8. The method of claim **7**, wherein the partially-crosslinked polymeric material comprises (i) from about 20% to about 95% by weight of first polymer chains derived from an epichlorohydrin-functionalized polyamine or polyamidoamine, (ii) from about 5% to about 80% by weight of hydrophilic moieties or second polymer chains derived from at least one hydrophilicity-enhancing agent having at least one reactive functional group selected from the group consisting of amino group, carboxyl group, thiol group, and combination thereof, wherein the hydrophilic moieties or second polymer chains are covalently attached to the first polymer chains through one or more covalent linkages each formed between one azetitdinium group of the epichlorohydrin-functionalized polyamine or polyamidoamine and one amino, carboxyl or thiol group of the hydrophilicity-enhancing agent, and (iii) azetidinium groups which are parts of the first polymer chains or pendant or terminal groups covalently attached to the first polymer chains.

9. The method of claim **8**, wherein the step of covalently attaching the hydrophilic polymeric material is performed by autoclaving the contact lens with the UV-absorbing coating thereon in a packaging solution including the partially-crosslinked polymeric material in a sealed lens package at a temperature of from about 118° C. to about 125° C. for approximately 20-90 minutes.

10. The method of claim **5**, wherein the hydrophilic polymer or hydrophilic polymeric material for forming the hydrogel coating comprises UV-absorbing moieties.

11. The method of claim **5**, wherein the UV-absorbing coating further comprises a blue light-absorbing polymer.

12. The method of claim **1**, wherein the ophthalmic lens is a silicone hydrogel contact lens which has a surface wettability characterized by having an averaged water contact angle of about 90 degrees or less.

13. A method for producing UV-absorbing contact lenses, comprising the steps of:

obtaining an ophthalmic lens;

dipping the ophthalmic lens in a coating solution, which comprises a first organic solvent and a UV-absorbing polymer dissolved in the first organic solvent, for a period of time sufficient to form a UV-absorbing coating on the ophthalmic lens, wherein the UV-absorbing polymer comprises UV-absorbing monomeric units and at least 50% by mole of carboxyl-containing monomeric units, wherein the first organic solvent is present in an amount of at least 60% by weight in the coating solution;

rinsing the ophthalmic lens having the UV-absorbing coating thereon with a mixture of water and at most 50% by weight of a second organic solvent; and

covalently attaching a hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material having reactive functional groups onto the UV-absorbing coating to form a hydrogel coating, wherein the hydrogel coating is covalently attached onto the UV-absorbing coating through linkages each formed between one carboxylic group of the UV-absorbing coating and one reactive functional group of the hydrophilic polymer or polymeric material.

14. The method of claim **13**, wherein each UV-absorbing monomeric unit comprises a benzotriazole or benzophenone moiety.

15. The method of claim **14**, wherein the UV-absorbing polymer is obtained by copolymerizing a polymerizable mixture comprising at least one carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer and at least one UV-absorbing vinylic monomer in the presence or absence of a vinylic monomer, provided that the carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer is present in an amount of at least 50% by mole in the polymerizable composition.

16. The method of claim **15**, wherein the UV-absorbing vinylic monomer is selected from the group consisting of 2-(2-hydroxy-5-vinylphenyl)-2H-benzotriazole, 2-(2-hydroxy-5-acrylyloxyphenyl)-2H-benzotriazole, 2-(2-hydroxy-3-methacrylamido methyl-5-tert octylphenyl) benzotriazole, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacrylamidophenyl)-5-chlorobenzotriazole, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacrylamidophenyl)-5-methoxybenzotriazole, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacryloxypropyl-3'-t-butyl-phenyl)-5-chlorobenzotriazo le, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacryloxyethylphenyl) benzotriazole, 2-(2'-hydroxy-5'-methacryloxypropylphenyl) benzotriazole, 2-hydroxy-4-acryloxy alkoxy benzophenone, 2-hydroxy-4-methacryloxy alkoxy benzophenone, allyl-2-hydroxybenzophenone, and 2-hydroxy-4-methacryloxy benzophenone, and combinations thereof; wherein the carboxyl-containing vinylic monomer is selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, C_1-C_{12} alkylacrylic acid, N,N-2-acrylamidoglycolic acid, beta-methyl-acrylic acid (crotonic acid), alpha-phenyl acrylic acid, beta-acryloxy propionic acid, sorbic acid, angelic acid, cinnamic acid, 1-carobxy-4-phenyl butadiene-1,3, itaconic acid, citraconic acid, mesaconic acid, glutaconic acid, aconitic acid, maleic acid, fumaric acid, tricarboxy ethylene, and combinations thereof.

17. The method of claim **13**, wherein the reactive functional groups of the hydrophilic polymer and hydrophilic polymeric material are azetidinium groups, epoxy groups, isocyanate groups, aziridine groups, azlactone groups, amino groups, carboxyl groups, and combinations thereof.

18. The method of claim **13**, wherein the hydrogel coating is formed by crosslinking a partially-crosslinked polymeric material onto the UV-absorbing coating, wherein the partially-crosslinked polymeric material is water-soluble and comprises a three-dimensional network and reactive functional groups selected from the group consisting of azetidinium groups, epoxy groups, isocyanate groups, aziridine groups, azlactone groups, amino groups, carboxyl groups, and combinations thereof.

19. The method of claim **18**, wherein the partially-crosslinked polymeric material comprises (i) from about 20% to about 95% by weight of first polymer chains derived from an epichlorohydrin-functionalized polyamine or polyamidoamine, (ii) from about 5% to about 80% by weight of hydrophilic moieties or second polymer chains derived from at least one hydrophilicity-enhancing agent having at least one reactive functional group selected from the group consisting of amino group, carboxyl group, thiol group, and combination thereof, wherein the hydrophilic moieties or second polymer chains are covalently attached to the first polymer chains through one or more covalent linkages each formed between one azetitdinium group of the epichlorohydrin-functionalized polyamine or polyamidoamine and one amino, carboxyl or thiol group of the hydrophilicity-enhancing agent, and (iii) azetidinium groups which are parts of the first polymer chains or pendant or terminal groups covalently attached to the first polymer chains.

20. The method of claim **19**, wherein the step of covalently attaching the hydrophilic polymeric material is performed by autoclaving the contact lens with the UV-absorbing coating thereon in a packaging solution including the partially-crosslinked polymeric material in a sealed lens package at a temperature of from about 118° C. to about 125° C. for approximately 20-90 minutes.