CLAIMS

1. A process for making a soft contact lens, comprising the steps of:

a) curing a hydrogel lens-forming formulation in a mold to form a hydrogel contact lens, wherein the lens formulation comprises a first leachable polymeric lubricant and a second leachable polymeric lubricant, wherein the first and second leachable polymeric lubricants are incorporated noncovalently and distributed in the matrix of the contact lens, wherein the number-average molecular weight of the second leachable polymeric lubricant is at least 3 folds of the number-average molecular weight of the first leachable polymeric lubricant;

b) packaging the hydrogel contact lens in a container containing a relative-viscous packaging solution having a viscosity of from 2.0 centipoise to 8 centipoise at 25° C., wherein the relative-viscous packaging solution comprises (1) from 0.1% to 1% by weight of a hydroxyl-containing viscosity-enhancing polymer selected from the group consisting of hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, and a mixture thereof, (2) a polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight of 2000 or less, (3) an α-oxo-multi-acid or salt thereof in an amount sufficient to have a reduced susceptibility to oxidation degradation of the polyethylene glycol in the relative-viscous packaging solution, and (4) one or more buffering agents in an amount sufficient to provide the solution a pH of from 6.0 to 8.0, wherein the packaging solution has an osmolality of from 200 to 450 mOsm/kg; and

c) sterilizing the hydrogel contact lens immersed in the relatively-viscous packaging solution in the package to obtain the soft contact lens that is characterized by its capability of easing lens-wearer's initial discomfort and providing a wearer with a comfort for a prolonged time period of more than six hours.

2. The process of claim **1**, wherein the α-oxo-multi-acid is selected from the group consisting of citric acid, 2-ketoglutaric acid, and malic acid.

3. The process of claim **2**, wherein the α-oxo-multi-acid is citric acid.

4. The process of claim **1**, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

5. The process of claim **1**, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of 600 daltons.

6. The process of claim **1**, wherein the hydrogel lens-forming formulation comprises at least one actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer which is soluble in water, a water-organic solvent mixture or an organic solvent, or meltable at a temperature below 85° C.

7. The process of claim **6**, wherein the actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer is selected from the group consisting of a water-soluble crosslinkable poly(vinyl alcohol) prepolymer; a water-soluble vinyl group-terminated polyurethane prepolymer; derivatives of a polyvinyl alcohol, derivatives of a polyethyleneimine, derivatives of a polyvinylamine; a water-soluble crosslinkable polyurea prepolymer; crosslinkable polyacrylamide; crosslinkable statistical copolymers of vinyl lactam, MMA and a comonomer; crosslinkable copolymers of vinyl lactam, vinyl acetate and vinyl alcohol; polyether-polyester copolymers with crosslinkable side chains; branched polyalkylene glycol-urethane prepolymers; polyalkylene glycol-tetra(meth)acrylate prepolymers; and crosslinkable polyallylamine gluconolactone prepolymers, and mixtures thereof.

8. The process of claim **1**, wherein the first and second leachable lubricants, independently of each other, are non-crosslinkable and non-charged hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, polyamides, polyimides, polylactone, homopolymers of a vinyl lactam, copolymers of at least one vinyl lactam and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, alkylated polyvinylpyrrolidones, homopolymers of acrylamide, homopolymers of methacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, copolymers of methacrylamide with at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, polyethylene oxide, a polyoxyethylene derivative, poly-N—N-dimethylacrylamide, poly 2 ethyl oxazoline, heparin polysaccharides, polysaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

9. The process of claim **3**, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

10. The process of claim **9**, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of 600 daltons.

11. The process of claim **10**, wherein the hydrogel lens-forming formulation comprises at least one actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer which are soluble in water, a water-organic solvent mixture or an organic solvent, or meltable at a temperature below about 85° C., wherein the actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer is selected from the group consisting of a water-soluble crosslinkable poly(vinyl alcohol) prepolymer; a water-soluble vinyl group-terminated polyurethane prepolymer; derivatives of a polyvinyl alcohol, derivatives of a polyethyleneimine, derivatives of a polyvinylamine; a water-soluble crosslinkable polyurea prepolymer; crosslinkable polyacrylamide; crosslinkable statistical copolymers of vinyl lactam, MMA and a comonomer; crosslinkable copolymers of vinyl lactam, vinyl acetate and vinyl alcohol; polyether-polyester copolymers with crosslinkable side chains; branched polyalkylene glycol-urethane prepolymers; polyalkylene glycol-tetra(meth)acrylate prepolymers; and crosslinkable polyallylamine gluconolactone prepolymers, and mixtures thereof.

12. The process of claim **11**, wherein the first and second leachable lubricants, independently of each other, are non-crosslinkable and non-charged hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, polyamides, polyimides, polylactone, homopolymers of a vinyl lactam, copolymers of at least one vinyl lactam and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, alkylated polyvinylpyrrolidones, homopolymers of acrylamide, homopolymers of methacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, copolymers of methacrylamide with at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, polyethylene oxide, a polyoxyethylene derivative, poly-N—N-dimethylacrylamide, poly 2 ethyl oxazoline, heparin polysaccharides, polysaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

13. The process of claim **3**, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, or mixture thereof.

14. The process of claim **13**, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of 600 daltons.

15. The process of claim **14**, wherein the hydrogel lens-forming formulation comprises at least one actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer which are soluble in water, a water-organic solvent mixture or an organic solvent, or meltable at a temperature below about 85° C., wherein the actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer is selected from the group consisting of a water-soluble crosslinkable poly(vinyl alcohol) prepolymer; a water-soluble vinyl group-terminated polyurethane prepolymer; derivatives of a polyvinyl alcohol, derivatives of a polyethyleneimine, derivatives of a polyvinylamine; a water-soluble crosslinkable polyurea prepolymer; crosslinkable polyacrylamide; crosslinkable statistical copolymers of vinyl lactam, MMA and a comonomer; crosslinkable copolymers of vinyl lactam, vinyl acetate and vinyl alcohol; polyether-polyester copolymers with crosslinkable side chains; branched polyalkylene glycol-urethane prepolymers; polyalkylene glycol-tetra(meth)acrylate prepolymers; and crosslinkable polyallylamine gluconolactone prepolymers, and mixtures thereof.

16. The process of claim **15**, wherein the first and second leachable lubricants, independently of each other, are non-crosslinkable and non-charged hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, polyamides, polyimides, polylactone, homopolymers of a vinyl lactam, copolymers of at least one vinyl lactam and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, alkylated polyvinylpyrrolidones, homopolymers of acrylamide, homopolymers of methacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, copolymers of methacrylamide with at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, polyethylene oxide, a polyoxyethylene derivative, poly-N—N-dimethylacrylamide, poly 2 ethyl oxazoline, heparin polysaccharides, polysaccharides, and mixtures thereof.

17. The process of claim **2**, wherein the viscosity-enhancing polymer is hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose.

18. The process of claim **17**, wherein the polyethylene glycol has a molecular weight of 600 daltons.

19. The process of claim **18**, wherein the hydrogel lens-forming formulation comprises at least one actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer which are soluble in water, a water-organic solvent mixture or an organic solvent, or meltable at a temperature below about 85° C., wherein the actinically-crosslinkable prepolymer is selected from the group consisting of a water-soluble crosslinkable poly(vinyl alcohol) prepolymer; a water-soluble vinyl group-terminated polyurethane prepolymer; derivatives of a polyvinyl alcohol, derivatives of a polyethyleneimine, derivatives of a polyvinylamine; a water-soluble crosslinkable polyurea prepolymer; crosslinkable polyacrylamide; crosslinkable statistical copolymers of vinyl lactam, MMA and a comonomer; crosslinkable copolymers of vinyl lactam, vinyl acetate and vinyl alcohol; polyether-polyester copolymers with crosslinkable side chains; branched polyalkylene glycol-urethane prepolymers; polyalkylene glycol-tetra(meth)acrylate prepolymers; and crosslinkable polyallylamine gluconolactone prepolymers, and mixtures thereof.

20. The process of claim **19**, wherein the first and second leachable lubricants, independently of each other, are non-crosslinkable and non-charged hydrophilic polymers selected from the group consisting of polyvinyl alcohols, polyamides, polyimides, polylactone, homopolymers of a vinyl lactam, copolymers of at least one vinyl lactam and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, alkylated polyvinylpyrrolidones, homopolymers of acrylamide, homopolymers of methacrylamide, copolymers of acrylamide and at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, copolymers of methacrylamide with at least one hydrophilic vinylic monomer, polyethylene oxide, a polyoxyethylene derivative, poly-N—N-dimethylacrylamide, poly 2 ethyl oxazoline, heparin polysaccharides, polysaccharides, and mixtures thereof.