Claims

1. Method of separating excess lens forming material from a molded ophthalmic lens, wherein after polymerization and/or cross-linking of the lens forming material (P) within a mold cavity (4) of a mold comprising female and male mold halves (2, 3) to form an ophthalmic lens non-polymerized and/or non-crosslinked lens forming material is flushed away from the mold halves (2, 3) with a jet of a fluid flushing medium and subsequently the molded lens is dried, wherein the flushing is accomplished with the mold halves (2, 3) being still arranged in a closed position, wherein for the flushing of the mold halves (2, 3) the flushing medium is injected into a peripheral zone of the mold cavity (4) through a feed channel (28), and wherein the flushing medium together with the excess lens forming material is discharged through a discharge channel (29), characterized in that the female and male mold halves (2, 3) are axially guided in a guide sleeve (7) and wherein the guide sleeve is provided with feed and discharge ports (10, 11) which communicate with the feed channel (28) and the discharge channel (29), respectively, and in that the feed channel (28) and the discharge channel (29) are arranged such, that the flushing medium is injected through the feed channel (28) into the peripheral zone of the mold cavity (4) tangentially and after being guided around the peripheral zone is discharged into the discharge channel (29) at an opposite circumferential portion of the mold cavity (4).

2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the feed channel (8; 28) and the discharge channel (9; 29) are arranged in vicinity of separation planes (51, 61) of the female and male mold halves (2, 3).

3. Method according to any one of claims 1 or 2, wherein the flushing medium is injected and discharged in directions which extend parallel to each other.

4. Method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the molded ophthalmic lens is flushed with a liquid flushing medium.

5. Method according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein after flushing the molded lens is dried by subjecting it to a heated gas stream, which is introduced through the feed channel (28) and discharged through the discharge channel (29).

6. Method according to claim 5, wherein after the drying of the molded lens the discharge channel (29) through which the heated gas stream is discharged, is closed and subsequently the mold (1) is opened by moving the female and male mold halves (2, 3) away from each other.

7. Method according to claim 5, wherein the heated gas stream is a stream of heated air.

8. Method according to claim 1, wherein the molded ophthalmic lens is a contact lens.

9. Apparatus for carrying out the method according to any one of the preceding claims, comprising a female and a male mold half (2, 3) which in a closed position define a mold cavity (4) the apparatus comprising a feed channel (28) and a discharge channel (29), wherein the feed channel (28) and the discharge channel (29) open to the peripheral zone of the mold cavity (4) at opposite sides of a circumference of the mold cavity (4), characterized in that the female and male mold halves are guided axially in a guide sleeve (7), wherein the feed channel (28) and the discharge channel (29) open towards a feed port (10) and a discharge port (11), respectively, at a circumference of the guide sleeve (7) and are in connection with a peripheral zone of the mold cavity (4), and wherein the feed channel (28) and the discharge channel (29) extend substantially tangentially to the peripheral zone of the mold cavity (4).

10. Apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the feed channel (28) and the discharge channel (29), respectively, are arranged in vicinity of separation planes of the female and male mold halves (2, 3).

11. Apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 10, wherein the feed channel (8, 28) and the discharge channel (9, 29) extend in a parallel direction.

12. Apparatus according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein at least the feed port (10) has a cylindrical shape and is adapted such, that upon insertion of a conical tip (12) of a feed line a sealing is achieved.